DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for allowing me to associate myself with the Special-Mention made by Dr. Thulasi Reddy I will make just two points, briefly.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Just one minute. You can make as many points as you want.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN Firstly, it is true that the entire medical profession in the country is very much agitated over this Act because it will make the practice of medicine in this country impossible. It is only applicable to the private sector and not to the Government sector. What is this equality before the law?

The other point that has to be kept in mind is the population control programme, which is the country's top-most priority. It has already been stated that unless we check population growth, there is no future for this country, but how can it be done with the existing procedures which are administered by the doctors? All the medicines that are given for the control or regulation of fertility have side-effects. All the surgical procedures have a chance of morbidity and mortality. How can you get success on the front of family planning if the entire machinery available with the Government...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now, please conclude.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: I am concluding. The Ministry of Health has been asking the private medical professionals to participate in the rural family planning programmes, especially in the rural areas where the challenge is the maximum, where there are no facilities whatsoever for conducting operations and doing other services. If there are penalties on doctors, nurses and other medical manpower to deliver these services, it will be impossible to achieve success on the family planning front. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to immediately take the doctors out of the purview of this Act.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): I may be allowed to associate myself with this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now, Mr. Mathur, you sart. There are still a few minutes.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तरप्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरी बदकिस्मती कुछ ऐसी है कि कल भी बीच में बोलते-बोलते टूट गया और आज भी दो मिनट में टूटना पड़गा ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : तीन मिनट हैं ।

श्री जगबीश प्रसाद माथुर : दो मिनट में इधर-उधर की बात करता हूं फिर बाद में बोलूगा ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : अभी तीन मिनट हैं।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मेरी कुछ बदकिस्मती ऐसी है कि कल खड़ा हुआ तो दो मिनट बाद बैठना पड़ गया था और आज खड़ा हो रहा हूं तो दो मिनट में लंच हो जायेगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): All right, we adjourn for lunch till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock, **The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai)** in the Chair.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE LIKELY CLOSURE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS DUE TO SCARCITY OF FUNDS—CONTD.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Shri J. P. Mathur will continue his speech now.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मुझे कल जो दो-चार मिनट मिले थे उसमें मैंने जो कहा था उसका मैं थोड़ा-सा उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा। आज पब्लिक सेक्टर्स कारखानों को वापस करने की स्थिति आई है। इसका कारण अब तक चली आई गलत नीतियां हैं। कांग्रेस सरकार और कांग्रेस पार्टी वर्षों चलाती आई है और यह कहती रही है कि पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग्ज कमांडिंग हाईट पर होंगे समाजवाद होगा, आदि आदि, लेकिन जैसा मैंने कहा था अब रास्ता बदल रहे हैं देर आये, दुरुस्त आये। आज उन्होंने अपनी गलतियों का अनुभव किया है और एक सीमा तक ही सरकारी उद्योगों को रखने का निश्चय कर रहे हैं। इस निमित एक नेशनल रिन्यूअल फण्ड की स्थापना की गई है। कल मैंने उल्लेख किया था कि कोई पौने दो सौ करोड़ से कम रुपयों का बजट मे प्रावधान किया गया है। साथ ही आपने यह आशा की थी कि दो बिलियन डालर हर वर्ष आई.एम.एफ. से मिलेंगे। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा कि अब तक उन्हें क्या उपलब्ध हुआ है, क्या उन्हें इसकी जानकारी है ?

आप जानते हैं कि वर्ल्ड बैंक ने अनुमान दिया था कि सारी इन्डस्ट्रीज को ठीक करेंगे तो 30 बिलियन डालर की आवश्यकता होगी। आपके पास आई.एम.एफ. का कितना धन है और कितना आप अपना धन रखना चाहते हैं? और आपका मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है ? यह भी स्पष्ट किया जाना चाहिए। मेरी दृष्टि में इस सब के उद्देश्य तीन होने चाहिए। प्रथम, सरकारी उद्योग नफे में चलें। दूसरा, उनका प्रोडक्शन बढ़े और तीसरा, मजदूरों को किसी प्रकार से हानि न हो। जो मैंने तीसरी बात कही है कि मजदूरों को कोई हानि न हो, यह केवल एक स्नेह का प्रश्न नहीं है, मजदूरों के साथ हमदर्दी का प्रश्न नहीं है। हमदर्दी तो होनी ही चाहिए, लेकिन सवाल यह है कि यदि लाखों मजदूर बेकार हो गये और लाखों मजदूर गलियारे में उतर आये तो देश की क्या स्थिति होगी, उसको समझा जा सकता है। प्राइवेट सेक्टर में हजारों मजदूर बेकार हुए हैं। उदाहरण के लिए आज से 6-7 साल पहले बम्बई में कपड़ा मिलें बंद हो गई थीं। न आपने उनको बाकी पैसा दिया है और न मजदूरों की बहाली हुई है। इस बात को मैं आगे नहीं बढ़ाना चाहता, लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या आपने कोई एस्टीमेट लगाया है, कोई अनुमान लगाया है कि कितने मजदूर आपकी इस योजना से बेकार होंगे ? मैं आपसे वायदा चाहूंगा और जैसा वायदा आपने मजदूर संगठनों से भी किया है कि एक मजदूर की भी छटनी नहीं की जायेगी, ऐसा आश्वासन आप दें। आपने तीन रास्ते निकाले हैं। आप कहते हैं कि डिसइन्वेस्टमेंट करेंगे। डिसइन्वेस्टमेंट करेंगे तो आप कहां तक करेंगे ? मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि डिसइन्वेस्ट केवल एक आड़ है। आप यूनिट ट्रस्ट को दे दें, दूसरे जो आपके फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशंस हैं उनको दें दें, लेकिन सरकारी कब्जा तो बना रहेगा। नाक ऐसे न पकड़िये, ऐसे पकड़िये, अंतर कोई नहीं पड़ता। दूसरा रास्ता आपने निकाला है, जिसको आपने कहा है गोल्डन हेंडशेक। गोल्डन हेंडशक नाम बहुत अच्छा है। लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहूंगा कि मजदूरों को आप कितना पैसा दे सकते हैं, गोल्डन हैंडशेक के। सामान्य मजदूर को मजदूरी 1200 रुपए से 1600 रुपए तक होती है। श्री थूंगन जी ने टैक्सटायल के बारे में तो घोषणा की है कि 15 दिन के वेजेज के हिसाब से न करके 45 दिन के वेजेज के हिसाब से देंगे। लेकिन आप लगाइये, अगर आप 45 दिन भी लगाइये तो 1200-1600 रुपए मजदूरी जिसकी है उसको कितना रुपया आप देंगे ? अगर उसकी बीस साल की सेवा होगी तो कितना देंगे और अगर दो साल की सेवा होगी तो कितना देंगे ? बहुत होगा तो 25 हजार, किसी को 50 हजार, किसी को 60 हजार रुपए दे सकेंगे। कहने के लिये तो यह बहुत अच्छा है कि गरीब मजदूर जिसको 1200 रुपया मिलते हैं उनको 50 हजार रुपया मिल गया, लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि वह उन 50 हजार रुपयों का क्या करेगा ? क्या

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

इस पैसे से वह अपना उद्योग लगा सकता है ? क्या उसकी क्षमता इतनी होगी कि वह बाजार में खड़ा हो सके ? सिवाय सके कि दो-चार साल में पैसा खा ले । इससे समस्या हल नहीं होगी । इसलिए मेरा आपसे आग्रह है कि अगर आप मजदूरों की सहायता करना चाहते हैं तो इस गोल्डन हैण्डशक स्कीम को एक तरफ रख दीजिए । आपने यह भी कहा है और मेरे पास प्रश्न के उत्तर जवाब है कि जो पब्लिक सेक्टर की यूनिट्स हैं उनको आप बी. आ ई.एफ. आर. को रेफर करेंगे । लेकिन इससे पहले क्या आप मजदूर संगठनों के साथ यह वायदा नहीं कर चुके हैं कि इसे बी.आई.एफ.आर. को रेफर किया जायेगा ? मैं पूछना चाहूगा कि आपकी नीति इस विषय में क्या है ? क्या पब्लिक सेक्टर यूनिट्स के बारे में भी आप बी.आई.एफ.आर. को रेफर करेंगे या नहीं करेंगे या मजदूरों को दिये हुए वायदे पर आप डटे रहेंगे या नहीं डट रहेंगे ?

क्या आपने दो ही रास्ते माने हैं ? या तो सरकारी उद्योग हो यदि सरकारी उद्योग न चल सके तो किसी प्राइवेट सेक्टर को दे दिया जाय तो मेरा कहना है कि यह दोनों विकल्प सही नहीं हैं। पहले रास्ते में तो यदि आप सरकारी उद्योगों को चलाना चाहते हैं घाटे के सरकारी उद्योग को भी इसी रूप में चलाना चाहते हैं और घाट के सरकारी उद्योग को भी इसी रूप में चलाना चाहते हैं अथवा डिसइन्वस्टमेंट करके आप उनको उसी प्रकार से चलाना चाहते हैं तो पहला काम आपको यह करना होगा कि जो टाप हैवी मैनेजमेंट है, उसकी लूट को दूर करना होगा । आप अगर जाकर देखें पब्लिक सेक्टर के किसी चेयरमैन ठाट-बाट को तो मैं कहूगा कि श्री थुंगन महोदय का बंगला देख लीजिये और उसका देख लीजिये । थुंगन महोदय का बंगला ऐसा लगेगा जैसे कोठी के पीछे का क्वार्टर हो । थुंगन साहब हंस रहे हैं, क्वार्टर में रहने की बात जो मैंने कही। लेकिन असलियत यही है । आप बी.एच.ई.एल. के चेयरमैन का हाल जाकर देखिये, उनका आफिस देखिये, 60–70 लाख पये उस पर खर्च किये गये हैं। तो क्या यह जिम्मेदारी मजदूरों की थी जो आपने पब्लिक सेक्टर के कारखाने खराब हुए ? मैं कहता हूं कि मजदूरों की जिम्मेदारी शायद बहुत थोड़ी होगी, लेकिन सबसे बड़ी मजबूरी आपकी है, कमजोरी आपकी है, जो आपने सरकारी अफसरों के हाथ में कारखाने दे दिये है। ऐसे आफिसरों के हाथ में दे दिये जिनको न अनुभव हैं और न ईमानदार हैं । वे केवल सरकारी खजाने से पैसा लूट रहे हैं और मंत्रियों व सरकारी नेताओं को कैसे खुश किया जाय, इसके अलावा उनका कोई काम नहीं है । पहला काम यदि आपको करना है तो आप टाप और हैवी जो मैनेजमेंट है उसको समाप्त कीजिये । आपने ट्रिपार्टाइट कमेटी बनाई है । मेरे दो मित्र कल पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी बनाने की बात कह रहे थे । पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी तो आलरेडी है । आपने बनाई है, आपने ठीक काम किया है । स्पेशल ट्राइपार्टाईट कमेटी ने कितना काम किया है ? क्या किया है, मैं यह भी जानकारी चाहूगा । आपने यह जो 58 कारखाने चुने हैं इनमें से कितनों को, कब कब और कैसे-कैसे आप डील करने वाले हैं ? (समय की घंटी) अभी तो मैंने शुरू किया है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : 10 मिनट हो गये ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : कहा हो गये 10 मिनट ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : आप तो बोलते रहे, इसलिए आपको पता नहीं चला ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मै तो अभी आधे में भी नहीं पहुचा ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Another two minutes.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : : मेरे जो साथी पहले बोले हैं । वह तो कारखानों

और पैसे की बात कर रहे थे। मुझे गरीब की बात तो करने दीजिए। कोशिश करता हूं, जल्दी खत्म करूंगा। तो मैं कहना चाहूंगा, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय ने मना कर दिया है केवल दो रास्ते प्राइवेट सेक्टर और पब्लिक सेक्टर नहीं है, क्या आप मजदूरों के हाथ में कारखाने नहीं दे सकते हैं? मेरा आग्रह है कि दिये जाने चाहियें। मैं उदाहरण दे रहा हूं। न्यु सेंट्रल जूट मिल 24 परगना जिले में बज बज में है। यह मिल 1985 में बंद हुई। कई साल बंद रहने के बाद मजदूरों ने उसे अपने हाथ में ले ली। उन्होंने प्रोविडेंट फण्ड में से पैसा लगाया और कुछ हर महीने 40 रुपए प्रति मास अपने वेतन में काट कर उन लोगों ने 6 करोड़ रुपया जमा किया। आज यह कारखाना मुनाफा में चल रहा है। क्या आप इस रास्ते को बंद करना चाहते हैं? हां, मैं जानता हूं, हमारे दो मजदूर संगठन साम्यवादी दल के और कांग्रेस दल के नहीं चाहते हैं। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहूंगा कि आपको मजदूरों के हाथ में कारखाने देने में क्या कठिनाई है? कभी-कभी कठिनाई इस कारण पैदा होती है कि उनके मित्र ही कारखाने के चेयरमैन बन जाते हैं। मेरे पास दूसरा उदाहरण है। यह कलकत्ता के एक कारखाने सेंट्रल जूट मिल का है। उसके बारे में वेस्ट बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री ने प्रधान मंत्री को चिट्ठी लिखी है कि बड़ नामी-गिरामी श्री स्वराज पाल जी हैं उनको यह कारखाना दे दिया जाए। इस पर सात सौ करोड़ रुपए लगेंगे। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप इस कारखाने के हजारों मजदूरों को इनके हवाले कर देना चाहते हैं? क्या आप वेस्ट बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री की बात को सही मानते हैं? एक नहीं, मजदूरों के सभी संगठनों, सी०आई०टी०यू० से ले कर इन्टक तक सभी संगठनों ने मांग की है कि यह कारखाना केवल सेल हाथों में रहने देना चाहिए। अब मैं आपका ध्यान एक दूसरी तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं और यह बताना चाहता हूं कि मजदूरों को परेशान करने के लिए क्या-क्या तरीके अख्तियार किये जाते हैं। हैंड शेक जिसे गोल्डन हैंड शेक कहते हैं, यह हैंड शेक मजदूर मजबूरी में करते हैं मैं यह चाहता हूं कि आप यह आश्वासन दें कि सरकारी कारखानों में यह नहीं होगा। कारखानेदार क्या करता है? एक खाता बंद करता है हर दूसरे महीने चौथे महीने जिससे मजदूर परेशान हो कर कहता है कि आप मुझे छुट्टी दे दीजिए। क्या आप यह करने वाले हैं? एक उदाहरण यहां दिल्ली की स्वतंत्र भारत मिल, दिल्ली का है। उन्होंने क्या किया? कई हजार मजदूर निकाल दिये गये हैं। मंत्री महोदय, जब आप यह काम करने जा रहे हैं तो मैं सब से पहले आश्वासन चाहूंगा कि एक भी मजदूर की छटनी नहीं की जाएगी, बी०आई०एफ०आर० को रेफर नहीं करेंगे जब तक कि स्पेशल ट्राइपार्टाइट कमेटी में कोई फैसला न हो जाए। तीन चार और मांगें रखी है, आपने मना कर दिया, इसलिए मैं बंद करूंगा। मैंने अभी कलकत्ता की बज बज मिल का उदाहरण दिया। आपने वायदा किया था कि उसके जितने पुराने कर्ज और देनदारी हैं उनको माफ करें लेकिन आपने ऐसा नहीं किया। क्यों नहीं किया? हरिद्वार में जो मिल है आई.डी.पी.एल. की इसका पैसा आपने दे दिया है लेकिन इस कारण बहुत दिन तक तनख्वाह नहीं मिली। मैं यह आश्वासन चाहूंगा कि यह जितने छोटे कारखाने हैं इनको मजदूरों के हाथ में दे देना चाहिए। आप यह वायदा भी कीजिये कि जितनी पुरानी देनदारियां हैं, उनको आफ राइट-आफ करेंगे। अदायगी को मजदूरों के कन्धों पर नहीं डालेंगे। सरकारी कारखानों में मजदूरों के साथ जो एग्रीमेंट्स थे, वह समाप्त हो गये हैं। आपने प्रतिबंध लगा रखा है कि उनके साथ बातचीत नहीं की जाएगी। मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि अगर आप चाहते हैं कि मजदूर खुशी के साथ काम करे तो आपको प्रतिबंध हटाना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : हो गया।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : सिर्फ दो वाक्य कहने के बाद समाप्त करूंगा।

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

दूसरा मैंने खास तौर से यह बात कही है कि आप इंस्ट्रक्शन देंगे कि कारखानें का कोई खाता मजदूरों को निकालने के लिए बंद किसी नहीं किये जाएंगे । अंतिम बात, आप एक ब्लू प्रिंट वह हम लोगों को तैयार करके दें कि 58 या 59, शायद एक बढ़ गया है, कारखानों के बारे में आपकी योजना क्या है, कब तक किस किसको कैसे डील करेंगे और आखिर में फिर इन्सेस्ट करूंगा, आपसे वादा चाहूंगा कि एक भी मजदूर की छटनी नहीं की जाएगी ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AGESH DESAI): Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please try to finish within five minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, you must give me a little more time. I apologise to the House because I was absent yesterday and I was supposed to have initiated this discussion. I was under the impression that this subject is being taken up today. Anyway, I feel flattered to be called upon to speak when you are presiding over the House Sir because all your life you have been a protagonist of the philosophy of the leading role for the publice sector in the national economy. Sir it really pains me to believe that a legallly constituted Government is acting so illegally. It pains me to believe that a legitimate Government is involved in such illegitimacy. It really pains me to believe that the Government is acting in flagrant violation of the established norms and law of the land. The point is not that some funds should be made available for the public sector. It is not a question of Government becoming generous. The points is that the Government is acting illegally because it is resorting to undeclared closures and lock-outs of a large number of public sector units. What is illegal for the private sector is sought to be legalised by a legal Government allowing its management to virtually close down the production in a large number of public sector units. What is the situation at the present moment? Production has been suspended in a large number of units; orders for production even from the Defence Department have been cancelled. Cut is being introduced; payment is being deferred; Idle wage payment is being encouraged; the industrial production is on the decline in the country and that is affecting the revenue collection of the Government. The future of the entire public sector in the country has been put in a serious uncertainty because a large number of so-called public sector units are sought to be closed down. At the same time a number of profitable public sector units are sought to be handed over to the private management under the garb of disinvestment. As a result the vital factor of production that is the working class of the country is being made totally demoralised and disoriented and this is going to be a serious hurdle in the process of so-called reformation or restructuring in which the Government is interested.

If we come to facts, the National Textiles Corporation used to produce 900 million metres of cloth. The production has now come down to 560 million metres. There is no production in the six NTC mills in Kanpur for the last one year. The Jute Corporation of India has not been given money till now to carry on the open market operation to protect the jute growers from the declining price of raw jute and that is why the JCI was brought into operation by a statute The production in National Jute Manufacturing Corporation has come to a standstill. The production in Rehabilitation Industry Corporation (RIC) has stopped for the last several months. The Bengal Chemicals, a leading pharmaceutical unit of the country is producing medicines at a much below capacity level. Sir, this is about the so-called 'sick' public sector units. What about the profitable units?

Sir, again I have with me a letter, and please bear with me if I read out the letter. The letter is from the General Manager, I.D.B.I., straightway refusing financial assistance; financial assistance to National Textile Corporations of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry who have been profitable! The letter says that... (*interruption*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Das Gupta, my only worry is that the time is very limited. Your party's time is only five minutes and if you go on like this, it will take not less than twenty minutes. So you just do not go beyond that.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: But I thought you would be indulgent because I had the option to initiate the discussion. Please give me a little more time...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): That is why I am saying this, that is why I am telling you, just don't go beyond that.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I am trying to be as short as possible. I am only picking out the points that are necessary at the moment.

Sir, there is a question of closing down public sector units which are incurring losses. What is the policy towards the public sector which is earning profit? The N.T.C.s of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry which had been earning profits, which had been declaring dividends year after year, have been refused financial assistance by the I.D.B.I. I have a letter from the General Manager addressed to the Chairman of that subsidiary. What is the reason? The reason is, the holding company is incurring losses. Therefore, even if the subsidiary is profitable, it cannot get the financial assistance;. Sir, I would like to know whether there is a change in the Government Policy even so far as the profitable Govt. industry of the country is concerned.

Sir, I.S.C.O., the Indian Iron and Steel Corporation, which was incurring losses year after year, last year had made a profit and it is likely to make profits for a number of years, but it cannot do so for a long time if the Government does not initiate the programme of modernisation. Unfortunately the successive Governments—I do not blame the Narasimha Rao Government only—had not been taking a concrete decision on the question of modernisation. Therefore, the I.S.C.O. even after making profits is likely to become sick again. SMITH STANISTREET, another leading pharmaceutical concern of West Bengal, is marginally sick. Two or three crores of rupees are necessary to bring it around. We brought the matter to the notice of Prime Minister. The Prime Minister categorically stated that these marginal units should be treated at a different level and asked the officials present in the meeting to take it up with the nodal Ministry so that it could be turned around at a very early stage. After that, the Secretary of Labour on 16th of May had written a letter to the nodal Ministry asking them to take action in pursuance of the directive given by the Prime Minister. Even the wish of the Prime Minister,—I do not say 'directive'—even the desire of the Prime Minister has been ignored. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know who runs the country and at what level the policy of the Government is decided. The main point is that the illegality of the Government lies in the fact that the money allotted under the Budget is not being released. Is the Budget a fraud or has the country turned insolvent? If the country has turned insolvent, then why should only the wages of the workers be deferred? Why should the Ministers get their salaries? Why should the Members of Parliament get their allowances? Therefore, the main point is, it is not the country that is turning insolvent; only we have surrendered our sovereignty. Why is it so? Why are the Budgetary funds not being released? The main point is there is monitoring of the Budgetary outflow constantly being made by a foreign agency. It is the curb imposed by the World Bank

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

that prevents the Government from releasing its funds. That is the main reason. I would like to know, Sir, if the Government is going to be dictated to even so far as the budgetary provisions and the release of funds are concerned by the World Bank. Is the Government going to be dictated to by the World Bank? What is the situation? The situation is, the National Textile Corporation having 120 mills was allotted Rs. 54 crores. But till now only Rs. 9 crores have been released. Out of this Rs. 9 crores, Rs. 6 crores have been paid towards the payment of wages of Kanpur Mill, idle wage payment. In the case of National jute Manufacturing Corporation, having 6 mills and employing 30,000 workers belonging to the State of West Bengal, Rs. 26.50 crores had been allotted in the Budget. Till now Rs. 2.50 crores have been released. The Jute Corporation of India is meant for open market operation to prevent distress sale of raw jute. There has been no allotment in the Budget even so far as the market operation of jute is concerned. Jute has started arriving in the market of West Bengal and already the price of raw jute is ruling at a much lower level, much lower than what it was last year. Who is going to come to their rescue? The JCI cannot do it because the Government has not given them the funds. Sir, this is an abnormal situation. Therefore, the question is not that we want the Government to become generous or to give them money. What is the situation? The Government had appointd committees. A number of a tripartite committees were appointed and also a committee consisting of Members of Parliament was formed at the initiative of the Prime Minister on our suggestion. But the Government is not waiting for the report of the committees. Even before the repors have been submitted or framed by the committees the Government has been taking unilateral decisions in total disregard of the report of the committees that have been formed by the Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now you please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Yes. I am concluding. The main point is that we do not deny that the economy needs restructuring. We agree that the country is going through financial stringency. We are ready to discuss the question or redeployment of labour force if there is any surplus labour in the country. But that has to be studied. Nobody is allowed to make any unilateral decision whether labour is surplus or not. The main point is, I believe that the public sector cannot be allowed to depend on budgetary allocation. Public sector has to earn profits for itself; it has to become profitable and viable. But every day the Prime Minister is making public declarations that in India not a single worker has been retrenched. We are going in for a package. Only the other day he stated categorically that his Government was preparing a package for rehabilitatinon of the sick industries. Supposing, Sir, a person has fallen ill you will arrange for his treatment in the therapeutic unit or in the intensive care unit of a hospital. But you have no ambulance to take the ailing patient to the hospital. Supposing the package is all right, will you allow these units to continue till the initiation of the programme of rehabilitation. This is a transitional period and during this transitional period it is total anarchy and chaos that is going on. As a result of the withholding of the budgetary allocation all the ailing patients will die before you can take them to a nursing unit or you can take them to an intensive care unit of a hospital. That is the tragedy. That is where I feel worried. That is where I fail to believe how a Government can act so irresponsibly and

callously in total disregard not only of its own policy but in total disregard of collective welfare of the country we are living in. Therefore, the main point is whether the Government can be allowed to suspend the release of the budgetary allocations, whether the Government can be allowed to act at the behest of the World Bank to keep the budgetary deficit or the fiscal level at a minimum point.

Sir, in conclusion this Government had been successful in avoiding a confrontation in Ayodhya. They don't want any confrontation. All right, thanks to the Government things are on the point of settling down. They don't want confrontation there. Why do they want confrontation, why have they embarked on a policy of total confrontation, so far as the working class is concerned? Sir, the second point

1.00 P.M.

is you want the UP Government to act according to law, to abide by law. But can the Government of India in Delhi afford to act in a way which is against the established law? You want the BJP Government to act according to law. But why should the Congress Government at the Centre act in flagrant violation of law? Can you declare closure of a number of units of which you are the owners? Is this irresponsible action on the part of the Government going to inspire, encourage the private sector of the country which has almost embarked upon a war path?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Lastly this is happening because of Manmohan model. The Manmohan model was prepared at the behest of the world Bank. I can tell you, Sir, the way the plan is being materialished the way in which the plan is being implemented Manmohan model will meet the same fate, because of the irresponsibility, because of the way in which it is sought to be implemented, the fate which the Gorbachev model had met in the Soviet Union.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, I was hearing with attention the hon. Member who was espousing the cause of the employees of not only the public sector units but also the employees of this country.

Sir, I agree with certain points which he has raised. But I disagree with him on certain issues. Everybody knows the performance of the public sector in this country. Out of 244 public sector units, 98 units are incurring losses of which 58 unit are at the stage of closure and they are incurring heavy losses. That has gone on record. Sir, yesterday you have referred to it. The loss incurred by 54 taken over public sector uints from the private sector is more than 27 per cent of the loss incurred by other public sector units in this country. The number of employees in those taken over public sector units is 2.45 lakhs. According to the survey the total number of employees who are likely to be excessive 3.75 lakhs. The Government was pleased to appoint several committees. These committees have submitted several reports. In these reports the committees have specifically referred to the Government of India that autonomy should be there for the public sector units and there should be accountability by the public sector units to the Government. These very important Committees are: Mohammad Fazal Committee, L. K. Jha Committee and Sen Gupta Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any of these Committees have referred to the problems of the employees and whether these Committees have said anything about retrenchment of employees. This is a crucial factor which we are discussing in this House today. Out of these 98 public sector units which are incurring losses, the accumulated loss is amounting to Rs. 10,000 crores.

The Government has adopted a baby from the private sector. The Government has taken over certain pri-

[Shri V. Narayanasamy]

vate sector units, which have been closed because of sickness, to help the employees who are going to be retrenched. In spite of taking over those units nearly 90 per cent of the units could not be revived. Therefore, the burden is on the Government. It has to take care of these units. In spite of the investment made by the Government in these units, they are not making profits. Then what is the way out? It is nobody's case, either from the Opposition or from the ruling party that the Government should go in for disinvestment in the case of profit making units. The Government should go for dininvestment in cast of units which are incurring losses.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Who will purchase?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, yesterday, I would like to remind the House, I had said that the assets of these units should be considered. I stand in this House and say that not even a single employee should be retrenched. This is the policy of the Government. I would like to remind the hon. Members from the other side that the hon. Prime Minister had categorically said that not even a single employee would be retrenched. Either they would be re-employed in some other public sector unit or if they want to go out of employment, then provision has been made under the scheme. The scheme is very clear. Apart from all the benefits that they would be getting, they will also get at the rate of 45 days' wages for each year of service that they are yet left.

By this scheme, my feeling is that they would get a sumptuous amount. This is a very good scheme. Issues were raised by various Members about the money coming from the Government. That has been made very clear. Rupees two hundred crores have been allocated for this purpose. The Government of India has assured this House that Rs. 1000 crores would be provided additionally by the Central Government and another Rs. 1000 crores would be provided by foreign banks by way of assistance. Therefore, Rs. 2200 crores is the amount that is available for employment purposes. This is for the benefit of the employees. Now this issue has been politicised by some political parties.

If a unit is incurring losses in spite of the investment that is made and in spite of revival schemes, it should be closed. If they do not agree to it, then they should suggest to the Government as to how the unit is to be revived. Then we can agree. But if, in spite of the efforts made by the Government to revive the unit, it continues to incur losses, then the Central Government's exchequer is going dry and therefore the unit should be closed. I had made a point earlier. The textile mills in this country were incurring losses of Rs 1 crore every day. What is the way out? Some of the textile mills were closed. A hue and cry was raised Some of the textile units could not be run profitably. The cumulative effect of the losses of the public sector units should be taken into account The policy framed by the Government is very clear. Government will concentrate only on core sector. The need not go for consumer items Ours being a mixed economy, both the public sector and the private sector should co-exist. We have to strengthen the hands of the public sector and not dilute it. When it comes to private sector involvement it should also be encouraged. But should not be encouraged at the cost of the public sector. In the case of consumer items, the private sector should be given a free consumer hand. Monopoly should be the in case of core sector. In the Industrial Policy document, when it was announced before this House, the hon. Minister had made it very clear that the Government would strive hard to improve the performance of the public sector and for restruct

ing the public sector units reducing the area of production, that is, leaving the consumer items to the private sector; referring sick units to the BIFR for the purpose of considering whether those units could make profits and if those units could not be revived, then to suggest ways and means. Then, Sir, another vital thing which is worrying me much is that under the name of disinvestment scheme, the shares of the public sector units are being sold through the banks. According to the information which we are receiving, shares worth Rs. 2000 are being sold at Rs. 360. I had even asked a question earlier in this House whether the shares of the public sector units were being sold at a very low price to the disadvantage of the public sector units. The hon. Minister should be very careful...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The public sector units will not be affected because these are the shares of the Government. The Government may be in loss and not the public sector units.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Yes, the Government may be in loss. That may be the case. But the price should not be quoted low because when they sell the shares to the financial institions and also to the public ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Does it make any difference?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It does make. It is the people's money.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: If the hon. Member yields, may I just seek a clarification? The point is, if after a total evaluation, some drastic steps are to be taken, nobody is against it. But the question is, should the reform be done in such an enarchic way? That is the point.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): Don't call it reform. It is deterioration. It cannot be called a reform. It is a wrong word.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Opinions may differ from Member to Member. In the Eighth Plan document also the Government's viewpoints on the public sector have been made very clear... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: All the documents are clear. But what are they doing Nothing is wrong in the document.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now make your last point.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: A very senior Member is asking about something. Let me answer him. Then I will conclude. He is asking about what we are doing. Thanks to Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of this country, he had given full autonomy to the public sector units, the chiefs of the public sector units, and he wanted them to give an account of their performance. The entire strategy of the functioning of the public sector units was completely changed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the chiefs of the public sector units had been given full authority to administer. Because of this, in fifty per cent of the public sector units, the performance was very good. But in some of them, we feel that it has to be improved further. So what we are doing is very clear. But for arguments sake, he doesn't want to admit that.

One more thing which I would like to know from the hon. Minister is about Maruti Limited. As a Member of the House, I have my own doubts. Why are you going in for disinvestment in Maruti? Why are you giving 51 per cent of your shares to a multinational company when that company is making profits and when it is your policy that in the profit-making units, there will not be disinvestment and that you will not give your shares to...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Where is the policy? On the contrary, only 20 per cent is done in such industries which

[Shri Jagesh Desai]

are doing very good, like the petro-chemical industries. What you say is not the policy of the Government.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It was only 8 per cent initially. I would like to know when that 20 per cent was agreed to by the Government for disinvestment. When was it agreed? According to my knowledge, it was only eight percent...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, it was twenty per cent. But the total... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I would like to assert in this House that there need not be any fear in the minds of the people and also in the minds of the hon. Members of this House that the workers will be retrenched by bringing this scheme, by making disinvestment or by bringing a policy and forcing the units through the B.I.F.R. The workers' interests will be safeguarded and I say that the Central Government is fully aware of the problems of the workers and the Prime Minister gave an assurance in the public and also in this House. Therefore, Sir, I would like to submit that the Government is going in a right direction as far as the public sector units are concerned. The Government does not want to share the entire burden of losing all the money which is invested—more than one lakh crores—in the public sector units. The Government should also run in a profitable manner and it should get the return. Therefore I support the hon. Minister's stand on this. With this, I conclude. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Sunil Basu Ray. Only ten minutes...

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY (West Bengal): Sir, the problem is so enormous that ten minutes is not all sufficient to tackle the problem.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: All right you will have 50 per cent bonus time *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: As I see the situation in which we are, it appears to me that the Government is engaged in an operation of bulldozing all the industries in India. It is not a matter of fifty public sector units only. It is a matter related to the entire industrial development in India. What should be the pattern of industrial development? What is at stake? The industries and the pattern that we developed through the public sector and through a combination of public and private sectors is at stake. And moreover, it has become so because the Government is acting under the direction of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. In both his letters Dr. Manmohan Singh had candidly given this assurance to the I.M.F. and to Mr. Camadessu that the Government would interact with them and the Government will, in accordance with their plan, in accordance with their directive, take decisions here. And in his second letter he has said that in accordance with the national policy of the Parliament in accordance with the I.M.F. policies, the Government will act. Now, this has been made so to confuse the people as if the Parliament is getting supremacy. It is not a fact. The Parliament's role has been brought down on a par with the decision of the I.M.F. We assert our national sovereignity, our national independence. So this is one aspect of the situation which must be taken into consideration and I do not know what decision the Government will take because it is their basic policy. The objectives and the thrusts etc. have been embodied in the Eighth Five Year Plan document, the primary document which the Planning Commission had released. In that the Planning Commission itself has said that public sector should vacate the areas which they are now controlling. They should move from those areas which are reserved for public sector. They should give room where the private sector is coming forward. Now what does this mean? This is a policy statement. This is an executive decision that there will be no public sector. So, to start with, they have sel

cted fifty public sector units which according to them are sick in which thirty two units are taken-over units. Now, we know for the last few years there was no Plan allotment in the budget for these industries. They were only getting paltry sums on account of non-Plan loan on which interest had been paid or is being paid by these industries. Now, if this continues, from where will the industries produce, from where will they get the money to produce and from where will they get the resources to purchase raw materials? I know about all the companies in the Asansol and Durgapur areas which are under the Central public sector. They are all starved of funds and they are not having any funds at all to purchase their inputs. So, you cannot tackle that problem. You cannot accuse them first and then convict them and then send them to the condemned cell for being hanged. Now, the situation has come to such a pass that you must act and act quickly and firmly.

Now, we had a general strike on the 29th November last and thereafter, on December 19 last. We had some discussions on this very issue. We had a general strike on the 16th June also against this policy and we are discussing it now. Two general strikes by the workers in India could not compel the Government to turn around and reconsider the decisions it had taken earlier. In December, we got this finely printed monograph on the public sector In November, in reply to a question by Mr. Mathur, we got a list from the Minister of fifty public sector units which had been considered to be sick and which were to be referred to the BIFR after the Act was amended. Thereafter the Act was amended in December and all of them have been referred to the BIFR. It is not that the Government has any hesitation in condemning these fifty public sector units to be hanged. The fact is that the BIFR is understaffed and it is not having time. Therefore, in this situation, what can we expect from the Government? We can expect the Government, if it still has the interests of the people and the workers in mind, to scrap the economic policies that it is pursuing now. Unless this is done, we cannot except that anything good for the workers will come from them.

Therefore the Government should come out with a revised programme scrapping the present one so that we can develop our industries. We want our industries to grow. We know that certain new developments have taken place which will turn the spotlight on the problems of the sick units and also on the problems of good units which may become sick tomorrow. Take the case of cost of input and the selling price. In respect of coal I have seen it is on the records of the Ministry in its Annual Reports that the cost of production is always higher than the selling price. Then what would be the result? The result will be only losses. This is there in the ship-building industry and it is there in the heavy engineering industry and it is there in almost all the industries. It is there in the industries in the Asansol and Durgapur areas. This will have a minus effect on the profitability of the industries. Nobody goes into the question whether the selling price is lower than the cost of production in a unit. Nobody checks up this and nobody goes to advise the management and nobody goes to advise the factory authorities as to what should be done or what should not be done. So, if you only talk about market forces and if you do not control anything, if you talk about international prices and if your domestic prices are higher then there will be certain patterns emerging in the industries which will necessitate intervention by the Government. The Government will have to intervene and take action so that the imbalances are set right. Now, coming to the position as it is,

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three lakh workers' services are at stake. 50 units and their total production capacity and capital are involved there. All that is going to be a waste. Now, if we want to change it, we must change the direction of the industrial policy. And for that, we must take certain actions certain decisions which are very essential under the present circumstances.

Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to the huge problem of displacement of workers. Now, the Government proposes a golden hand shake, and a few thousand rupees may be given including their legal dues of provident fund and gratuity, etc. Now that will not solve the problem. They will not get employment anywhere. The Government says that the National Renewal Fund will be utilised for paying then their money on voluntary retirement or retraining them and for induction of new technology in the old industries. There is no plan. There is no programme for it. So, these are all hoaxes. These will not convince the workers. These will not convince the people, the families who are starving and those who will start starving from tomorrow. And where from have we got all this money? About 12 billion rupees will be spent on this NRF. And this is all loan money. This is the money taken from the IMF, and we are to pay interest on it also. So, whose money is it? Who is paying whom? Who is taking the credit? You are paying me only to make me a prisoner of debt. And the Indian workers and the Indian people are not ready to accept that and they are fighting against it. That is why they are going on strikes.

Now, I think, to sum up the immediate situation is that 50 public sector units are going to be closed. Disinvestment which has been made from 5 to 25 per cent in 30 units of the public sector may go up to 49 per cent and even 100 per cent in future. Displacement of about three lakh workers, absence of attractive alternative employment opportunities, absence of training in the absence of alternate technologies being made available are the problems that we are facing. So, we have to take certain actions. We have tn declare that there will be no closure of PSUs as well as private enterprises. Sir, as you know, three lakhs of private enterprises are either closed or sick in which Rs. 7000 crores are invested which has become a dead capital.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now, please conclude.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: I am concluding.

They must allocate funds from NRF for industrial revival and rehabilitation. Now, there is no programme for industrial revitalisation or rehabilitation of industries. Whatever programme is there, that is to throw them away, just to make them Junks. Then our market should also be protected because we are facing competition from the foreign markets, foreign capital, and soon we will find that our products will not find any market here. So, we should adopt appropriate rational price policy without compromising any single commodity's or sector's interest. Declare moratorium on all liabilities. There should be no import that may adversely affect national industries. You should develop integrated rural-urban market. You must promote strong market forces to protect against foreign, developed countries' market-aggressive policies. Abolish BIFR. All money to be recovered from scam is to be invested in PSEs. Restructure PSEs, specially the management, and also the production line. Rationalise 2.5 lakh executives and their foreign trips. Repeal the Coal De-nationalisation Act. Stop bringing Minerals Act Amendment Bill. The other tasks are: authorise workers to take control of the public sector enterprises and the private enterprises; to cure them of sickness, allocate necessary funds; consider and accept the alternative

revival policies submitted by the trade unions in the state public sector units; do not stop payment of wages in sick public sector units; stop voluntary retirement; retraining and re-deployment to be planned on the basis of actuel industrial situation available.

Sir, these are my submissions.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, 24 जुलाई, 1991 में जो नई इंडस्ट्रियल पालिसी बनी उसमें सरकार ने मिक्सड इकनोमिक पैटर्न को अपनाने की बात कही थी और पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग्ज की क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिए ऐसी व्यवस्था की गई थी कि उनका रिस्ट्रक्चर किया जाय । लेकिन बजट में जो प्रावधान था वह काफी कम रहा । जैसे 1991–92 में पब्लिक इन्टरप्राइसेज के लिए जो बजट 668.89 करोड का था वह घटकर 1992–93 में 444.61 करोड़ रुपयों का हो गया । इस प्रकार से 1991–92 का जो बजटरी प्रावधान था वह 1992–93 के बजटरी प्रावधान से कम हो गया । इस कमी की वजह से पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग्ज को और भी परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ा । कुछ ऐसे पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग्ज थे, जैसे एन.टी.सी., जे.सी.टी., और एन.जे.एम., इन्हें भारी वित्तीय संकट का सामना करना पड़ा क्योंकि इनके सुचारू रूप से कार्य संचालन के लिए पर्याप्त धन की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई । कुछ यूनिट्स की हालत तो यह रही कि उन्होंने अपने वेज बिल का भुगतान जून, 1992 तक भी नहीं किया । इस प्रकार से ये सारी स्थितियां रहीं । लेकिन सरकार से सदैव पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग्ज की मदद मिलती रहे, यह संभव नहीं होता है । इसके लिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि मैनेजमेंट अपनी तरफ से कुछ ऐसी व्यवस्था करे कि उसकी प्रोडक्टिविटी बढ़े, उसकी प्रोफिटिबिलिटी बढ़े और इसके लिए कुछ कदम भी उठाये गये, जैसे पीरिओडिकल परफोरमेन्स रिव्यू किया गया, लैस ब्यूरोक्रेटाइजेशन किया गया, बोर्ड आफ डायरेक्टर्स में आम जनता के लोगों को भी शामिल करने की व्यवस्था की गई और प्रोडक्ट मिक्सड डाइवर-सिफिकेशन भी किया गया । टैक्नोलाजी का सही ढंग से उपयोग हो सके उसके लिए अपग्रेडेशन किया गया । लेकिन इन सब का सही ढंग से उपयोग हो सके उसके लिए उसका अपग्रेडेशन किया गया । लेकिन इन सब से वांछित फल की प्राप्ति नहीं हो पाई और समय-समय पर इन्दिरा जी के दौर से कार्य निष्पादन की किस ढंग से समीक्षा की जाए, इसके लिए कमेटी बनी । पहले अर्जुन सेनगुप्ता जी की कमेटी बनी । उसके बाद एल.के. झा साहब की कमेटी बनी और फिर मोहम्मद फजल, जो प्लानिंग कमीशन के मेम्बर रहे, उनकी कमेटी बनी और उन्होंने अपनी अपनी सिफारिशें प्रस्तुत कीं कि किस ढंग से पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग्ज से काम लिया जाय ताकि जिस लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति के लिए इनका निर्माण किया गया है वह प्राप्त हो सके । लेकिन उनकी सिफारिशों में डिसइन्वेस्टमेंट का कहीं उल्लेख नहीं था, जो अभी पिछले दिनों हमको देखने और सुनने को मिला है । मान्यवर, हालत यह है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग्स के जो शेयर हैं, जो आम पब्लिक के लिये होते हैं, वे म्युचल फंड के द्वारा बैंक को जाने चाहिये थे, उसकी प्रापर लिस्टिंग होनी चाहिए थी । लेकिन लिस्टिंग होने से पहले ही कुछ दलालों ने वे शेयर ले लिये और जो जानकी रमण कमेटी की सेंकड अंतरिम रिपोर्ट है, उसमें इस बात का उल्लेख है । इसने इस स्कैंडल को एक नया मोड़ दे दिया है । यह बहुत गंभीर संकेत है और इसकी गभीरता को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए माननीय मंत्री जी को निश्चितरूप से कुछ कदम उठाने चाहिए । महोदय, यह मेरा आपके माध्यम से उनसे आग्रह है ।

मान्यवर, 8.12 लाख इम्पलाईज, करीब सवा आठ लाख के करीब इम्प्लाईज 98 पब्लिक सेक्टर इटरप्राइसेज के हैं जो करीब 35 प्रतिशत पड़ते हैं, वे इससे प्रभावित होंगे, जो कि रीस्ट्रक्चरिंग के कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं, उससे प्रभावित होंगे । इसलिए इस पर बहुत गंभीरता से विचार करने की जरूरत है । आपने भी अपनी बात में इस बात का उल्लेख किया था कि यह बहुत नाजुक मसला

[श्री सुरेंद्र पनौरी]

है। इस पर संजीदगी से कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है। जो करीब 10 हजार करोड़ रुपए पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्स का पैसा है, जो बौंड्स के द्वारा रेज किया गया है, वह कैपिटल मार्केट के रूप में डाइवर्ट करके मेनपुलेट किया जा रहा है। यह जिन लोगों के द्वारा मैनुपुलेट किया जा रहा है, ये केवल कुछ चंद दलाल हैं, जिनका उल्लेख मैंने किया है। इन दलालों के माध्यम से वे शेयर वगैर लिस्टिंग किये खरीद लिये गये जो कि बहुत गंभीर बात है। जिन पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग्स ने इसमें मेन रोल प्ले किया है वे हैं, ओ.एन.जी.सी., आई.ओ.सी., बी.एच.ई.एल, हुडको, एम.टी.एन.एल., एन.टी.पी.सी., एन.टी.सी. एन.एल.सी., नेल्को, इसकी और भी लंबी श्रृंखला है। इसलिए मंत्री जी को इन पब्लिक सेक्टर अन्डरटेकिंग्स, जिन्होंने चंद दलालों के हाथों में कैपिटल दी, उनकी कैपिटल को बनाने का काम किया उनकी निष्पक्षता से जांच करनी चाहिए। जो आप स्ट्रेचरिंग करते समय स्टैप उठा रहे हैं, जिनका उल्लेख आपने किया, उसके अलावा भी और कदम उठाये जाने की मैं आवश्यकता महसूस करता हूं। एडवांस स्टेज पर टेक्नोलाजी का इस्तेमाल इनकी क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिये करना चाहिए। एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव प्वाइन्ट आफ व्यू से एफेक्टेविली, सिस्टेमेटिक ढंग और एफिशियेंटली काम हो सके, अच्छे ढंग से कार्य निष्पादन हो सके, ऐसी व्यवस्था पर निश्चित रूप से विचार करना चाहिए, ऐसा मेरा आग्रह है।

एक्विटी का गलत डाइल्यूशन करने से या प्राइवेटाइजे न करने से समस्या का हल नहीं होने वाला है बल्कि इसके लिये हमको और व्यूह-रचना बनानी होगी और रणनीति बनानी होगी। आखिर जिस मकसद को ध्यान में रखकर पब्लिक सेक्टर अन्डरटेकिंग्स की स्थापना की गई वह वांछित लक्ष्य प्राप्त क्यों नहीं कर पा रही है? यद्यपि पिछले शासन ने इसको स्वायत्तता दी ताकि यह अच्छे ढंग से कार्य का निष्पादन कर सके। मगर जैसी अपेक्षा थी, उस अपेक्षा के अनुरूप परिणाम नहीं निकल पाया। यह बहुत गंभीर बात है। इसलिए इस पर विचार किये जाने की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है, यही मेरा आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह है। दूसरा जो एन.आर.एफ. की बात कही गई है, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जब अपना बयान दिया था तब नेशनल रिन्यूअल फण्ड का उल्लेख किया था कि वर्कर्ज के वेलफेयर को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए इसका गठन किया जा रहा है। इसके लिए 1992-93 के बजट में दो सौ करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान रखा गया है और इस फण्ड की टोटल राशि की अवेलेबिलिटी 2200 करोड़ रुपए की है जिसमें से दो सौ करोड़ तो बजट में है और एक हजार करोड़ रुपए की डिसइन-वेस्टमेंट की बात कही गई है तथा एक हजार करोड़ रुपया वर्ल्ड बैंक से लेने की बात है। इस तरह से 2200 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान रखा गया है। लेकिन किस रूप में, किस ढंग से, कितने इम्प्लाइज को, किस एक्शन प्लान में, इसमें से मदद मिलेगी, इसका स्पष्टीकरण नहीं हो पाया है। इस बारे में भी विचार किया जाना बहुत आवश्यक है। इसके साथ मंत्री जी इस संबंध में जो स्टेप उठा रहे हैं वह निस्सन्देह ठीक है लेकिन ठीक स्टेप पूरे ठीक तब माने जायेंगे जब संजीदगी से, बहुत सावधानी बरतते हुए और उन लोगों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करते हुए जो अपने कार्य निष्पादन में खरे नहीं उतर पाए हैं, हम कुछ कदम उठा पायेंगे तब हम यह कह पायेंगे कि यह जो व्यवस्था मंत्री जी द्वारा की जा रही है, यह बिल्कुल ठीक है वरन अभी में केवल ठीक कहना ही उपयुक्त समझूंगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, it is a sad day for the country that the public sector is being discussed in a manner it is being discussed ever since this Government came into power. First, let me, for the sake of record and probably too much of discussion, say that we seem to get confused. The general trend and the tone in the last one year is that for the last 40 years we have been pursuing wrong policies which need to be corrected. There is a hint that socialism is out of date. Sometimes, there is some reference out of context to Russia or some such thing as if we had a Russian system in India, which we never

had. There has been some such confused thinking to obfuscate the facts and to say as if this public sector, this whole welfare model, everyhting that is introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru, is out of date, the world has marched forward, we must integrate into the market economy. global economy, integrate with the West. etc. Sir, these 40 years let us forget, let us talk of the ten years since 1980. For the information of the House, do you know what was the total investment in the public sector in 1980 which stands today at Rs. 1,13,000 crores? In 1980 when Mrs. Gandhi came back to power. it was only Rs. 18,000 crores. From Rs. 18,000 crores you have taken it to Rs. 1,00,000 crores in ten years. It increased from Rs. 18,000 crores to Rs. 42,000 crores in the Sixth Plan period, 1980-85. and when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi came to power, with all his outlook for modernism, etc., in his own wisdom he increased the investment in the public sector from Rs. 42,000 crores to Rs. 99,000 crores. Of couse, after Rajiv Gandhi went out of power there was no Government. came to power the country was in anarchy because the National Front Government we came to power and now we have to are a great Government for the last one year. What are they saying? Are they trying to say that whatever Rajiv Gandhi did is also out of date? Okay. Jawaharlal Nehru might be out of date, I do not want to argue with them, but in the 5 years from 1985—98 you have increased the investment from Rs. 42,000 crores to Rs. 99,000 crores. Whose money is it? You have taken loans from abroad. Large foreign loans have been invested in the public sector. Large Indian money has been invested in public sector and today in two years we are being told that all that is out of date, the public sector connot work, it is all out-dated technology. The Finance Minister of the country gives an interview to the press. where he says, India needs modern technology that is available with the multinationals, not with the public sector. What does it mean? What kind of a statement is this? We never said that we should not get technology from these multinationals or whoever can give us technology. And what is the comparison between multinationals and public sector? This is just a bogey being created to give the public sector a bad name. Sir, just to remind the House, when the public sector came in 1955. what was the scenario in India? The total industrial sector consisted of a few families who used to run enterprises. There was nothing like professional management. This public sector was due to the farsightedness of Jawaharlal Nehru. When the steel plants were set up, when these modern complexes were set up, apart from any other economic activity, the biggest resource that was created in India was managerial talent, middle-level managerial taletn. Thousands of young men—technocrats. managers, accountants. cost people—got trained in running, organizing and putting up industries and large complexes. Take the Food Corporation of India. I have got a lot of complaints about how it is being run today—that is a different matter—but tell me one company in India, one private enterprise in India' who can organize food procurement and distribution on that scale through out the country. It is the public sector which has done it. Take the IPCL. It is a petro-cremical complex anybody would be proud of Private sector in India is copying it, large houses who are today getting into petro-chemicals are vying with each other to copy the IPCL. It is all right.

What is the anatomy of the public sector? This investment I have already spoken of. Another aspect which I will touch later on is employees. At the time when Rs. 18,000 crores was the total investment in the public sector, the total employment was 19.39 lakhs... (*Interruptions*)... Sir, it is not the public sector survey figure.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): At that time?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Yes, Sir, but please listen to the startling facts. When investment has gone up from Rs. 18,000 crores to Rs. 1,13,000 employment has gone up from 19.39 lakhs to 22 lakhs. What is the ratio? Today we are talking of overstaffing. If today the public sector is overstaffed, then in 1980 it must have been overstaffed ten times over I am a management man; we must study unit by unit. There may be units where there is overstaffing. But let us not generalize; let us understand. From an investment of Rs. 18,000 crores to Rs. 1,13,000 crores, the employment has gone up from 19 lakhs to only 22 lakhs. In fact, if the public sector is guilty, it is guilty of not creating employment opportunities. Let us understand that. Sir, the point that I am trying to say is, with this kind of investment we have no choice. Manmohan Singhs may come and go, you cannot do anything. The public sector will be here, you will have to run it. It is an investment of the country, it does not belong to politicians who come to office one year and go away. It belongs to the country. The question that we all, together, have to apply our mind to is, how do we make this investment profitable? That is, what a private man does, that is what we should do.

After all, we have invested Rs. 1,13,000 crores. How do we make these things run properly? Sir, again startling figures! There may be 246 enterprises which you must concentbreak-up? There are only 25 enterprises which account for 86 per cent of the total profits. So, it is these 25 enterprises which you must concentrate on, run them more profitably. Now, to run 25 companies is not a gigantic task. Similarly, there are 20 loss-making companies which account for 80 per cent of the losses. What we have to do is to have a Parliamentary Committee—either the Committee on Public Undertakings or a special committee for this purpose—which should go, unit by unit, into these loss-making companies and decide what to do with them. There is absolutely no need of planning. No major ground situation has changed in the last one year or two years. What has changed is the Government. We have a Government whose mental attitude is to go back on everything that we have done or achieved with our pride. With that kind of an attitude, you can't help it.

I don't want to comment on individuals, but a Government which thinks that Bharat Ratna has to be conferred on Mr. J. R. D. Tata, that one action alone, speaks volumes of what your thinking is. I have no quarrel because, whatever your thinking is, you have to face the electorate. My quarrel is limited, just now, that you give the figures to Parliament in a proper manner. You have taken over 47 companies from the private sector. Out of 246, 47 are taken-over companies. Out of these 47, 37 continuously make losses. Whom do we attribute it to—the public sector or the private sector? These loss-making private sector units, you have taken them over but you could not turn them around. To begin with, if you are so much interested in these 37 units, please sit down and find a solution. Please find buyers in the private sector and return these to them. I am not against it. But don't talk of retrendchment. Dont talk of disemploying people. That is uncalled for. If your managerial talent is not enough to turn around a unit, let somebody else try it. About the 37 units which you cannot turn around, sit down and find out a solution. Similarly, some units which we have put up, the Government has put up, are perennially sick units. The Scooters India, the IDPL, the MAMC are perennially sick for 15, 20 years Let a committee sit down and find out a solution. In management there is nothing which does not have a solution. The solution has to be found. Is the product unsaleable? Is the cost of production high? Is the cost of financing high? Maybe, some restructuring is required. We can turn around every single unit if we have an open mind. Unit by unit let us do it. There is no reason for this kind of panic.

The other aspect which is being much talked about these days is about

closure on which this whole debate has started. My friend, Mr. Narayanasamy, said that 3.5 lakh people would be affected by closure of 58 units listed by the DPE. the Department of Public Enterprises. I do not know. At the same time, he says that the Prime Minister has assured that not a single person would be retrenched. If the Prime Minister gives us that assurance, I will sit down because just now my case is limited to that. What is the National Renewal Fund meant for if people are not going to be retrenched? My submission to the Government is: Scrap this idea of the National Renewal Fund. The joke is enough. For one year you have taken the country on this path. After this bank scam, Sir-please take my word-there is no credibility for our economic policy in the West. The western bankers are laughing at you. No multinaitonal will come here in the situation in which the Reserve Bank of India does not know that Rs. 5,0000 crores of its money has been stolen away. . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Narayanasamy. it is good that you have come.

Sir, this is the situation today. So, against liberalisation, I am not speaking any more, because liberalisation is already a dead latter. It is finished. Now, some of the after-effects like the National Renewal Fund. if they start, I don't know what happens. My poor friend, Mr. Thungon, has been given this responsibility because most of these units are under his Ministry. (*Interruptions*)

I did not disturb you, Mr. Narayanasamy. Please listen to me.

I was referring to Mr. Narayanasamy. I will be glad if they give us an assurance that nobody will be thrown out of his job. I will be happy for the time being.

Sir, there is a solution, and the solution is very simple. If they have identified. unitwise, the people who are surplus, all that they have to do is, for the next two or three years, not to fill up the vacancies. They will get adjusted. There is no need to disemploy people and create panic There is absolutely no need of that. It is an inhuman thing to do, and in a welfare state, an unacceptable thing to do. In this haphazard way you make a list of 58. Even today the Government has not come clear on which units it wants to close down. We do not know this. So. I am very much concerned about it. If the Government is serious about being a welfare state, it must come out with a white paper on what exactly it wants to do and give Parliament a chance. Let us have a parliamentary committee with all parties represented thereon. It is not a question of an open debate. The committee can look into unit by unit and come to a conclusion.

About disinvestment, it has nothing to do with privatisation. Sir, even if old furniture, broken furniture in a Government office is to be sold, tenders are invited. If tenders are not invited, the CAG will pass strictures.

[**The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan)** in the Chari]

Mr. Chaturvedi is here. He was CAG. Scores of strictures will come that a loss of Rs. 20,000 crores was caused to the Government, that a loss of Rs. 1,13,000 was caused to the Government. Why? Because some Collector. some DM forgot to issue tenders or invite offers. Madam, it is a scandalous state of affairs that 20 per cent of your well-run, blue-chip companies, you sell off without inviting tenders in the name of some mutual fund. It is not a mutual fund. It is a mutual-benefit fund, I think. It is a fund for mutual benefit. Somebody has benefited down the line.

It is no surprise that today in the bank scam which has come, we find that public sector shares have also been involved. Bound to be. because people know that the Government shares can be obtained without giving the highest offer. If you offer them for a song, there are enough people with money, who will come and buy them.

Madam, I have made a calculation. If they sell out 20 per cent of the equity of the 25 top profit-making

companies at the normal price-earning ratio of equity which is applied to private companies, on 20 per cent disinvestment the Government will realise Rs. 18,000 crores. (Interruptions) Okay. Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 20,000 crores, they will get. We want to know--Mr. Thungon smiles away to all the protests from us-from the Government what are the shares you have sold. Which company shares you have sold? How much per cent of shares you have sold? At what price you have sold the shares? How have you arrived at the price? More than that we are concerned as to what you are going to do in the future. Please present a paper givng the position to the Parliament. Honourable Members, Mr. Narayanasamy, Mr. Suresh Pachouri, Mr. Jagesh Desai, all the speakers from the Congress (I) were also concerned about this because after all this is Parliament. All public sector.

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH (Bihar): I am also concerned with it.

जितनी बातें ये कह रहे हैं, कल जब मैंने डिवेट शुरु की थी तो सारे पॉइंट्स मैंने कहे थे। फर्क यही है कि मैंने हिंदी में कहा था और ये अंग्रेजी में कह रहे हैं। मैडम, अगर ये मेरा सारा भाषण पढ़ लेते तो कुछ कहने की जरूरत ही नहीं पड़ती और अगर आप मेरे हिंदी भाषण को पढ़कर उसका अंग्रेजी अनुवाद कर रहे है तो वह ठीक है।

श्री कमल मोरारका: वही तो मैं कह रहा हूं। Kindly let me finish. I am not discussing it on partisan lines. But if it is the Government money. we have a Public Accounts Committee, we have a Public Undertakings Committee, parliamentary debate, what is all this accountability about if you can sell away 20 per cent shares without our knowledge? After selling also, you want to keep that money away from us. You don't want to give us the information and the banks can be milked of Rs. 5000 crore for which we are yet to appoint another JPC. The whole democratic structure will come crashing down. That is my probelm.

Another tenor of the debate, Madam, which I don't like is that today suddenly there is public sector bashing which is one thing and trade union bashing which is another thing. What are the workers to do? They did not go and get themselves employed automatically. Somebody employed them there. We have employed them there. Today if you find that the workers are surplus beacuse of the latest technology, there are hundreds of ways of handling it. Private sector is doing it. You also do it in that way. You want to use your powers in a manner that you oppress the working class. This is no way to do it. We cannot be a party to this decision. You use your powers judiciously, in a human way. You should sit down with the trade unions. There is a method and a solution to every problem. The real problem is management techniques which have to be employed unit by unit. These 20 or 37 takenover units plus another 20 units should be examined case by case by a Parliamentary Committee before the Government taken any decision to close them down.

As Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta said--if it is true-you have already deferred the wages to the workers, not paying them wages or making some excuse. It is a very serious matter. If the private sector people don't pay wages, you will haul them up in the courts of law. If the Government does not pay...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Just a moment. In case of NTC ten days' wages have been deferred. In case of National Jute Corporation, a fortnight's wages have been deferred. There are many such examples.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: I have got lot of statistics but there is no time to quote. I will only end up by telling the Minister, please take it into your own hands and see that the workers who are employed in a unit are paid their wages in time. Your Government is running in a deficit. All the budget figures have gone haywire. You are not going to save much by saving a few crores of

rupees from the salaries of the workers. You take remedial steps elsewhere. But please see that fair justice is done to the workers and the public sector is handled in a proper sophisticated management way and not in this crude and arbitrary manner in which you are trying to do it. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Ahluwalia-not here. Mr. Sahu-not here. Mr Jadhav.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Madam Vice-Chairman, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject. I was listening to the speeches of expert people and learned people in this field very carefully. But I am a farmer basically and I am not from the business community. What I think from the national point of view is very important. There is no doubt that public sector or private sector or cooperative sector must perform its duties. Unless it functions properly, we will not get the benefit. I have with me a lot of statistics about the performance of public sector units for the last so many years.

Madam, Pandit Jawaharla Nehru, one of the founding fathers of this nation, who has established a large number of public sector units said: Today's industries are the modern temples of India." We have a very big temple in Maha-

00 PM rashtra of Lord Vithala. And, there is a person who does tre 'pujas' there every day. He is known as the 'pujari' or the 'worshipper'.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are also 'Vithal'.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Yes, my name is also Vithal, fortunately.

That 'pujari' takes away whatever 'dakshina' is given to the temple God does not take that. The 'pujari' or the worshipper who looks after the idol of the God takes away all that. Likewise, the people who are concerned with the administration of public sector industries are doing a lot of corruption. Why do these industries not perform well? Madam, I know one thing. If there is any prestigious industry in Delhi, it is the Maruti Udyog Limited. A lot of discussion took place about it both in the Rajya Sabha and in the Lok Sabha. People even from the BJP and and the Janata Dal, apart from the Congress, have categorically asked the Minister why the CBI inquiry that was launched against Mr. Bhargava, the Managing Director of the Maruiti Udyog Limited, was withdrawn. Why was the inquiry withdrawn? Who was the Minister at that time? As far as my knowledge goes, the Industry Minister of the Janata Dal Government had withdrawn that inquiry.? Why? I do not know the reason; nor am I bound to give the replies for all these things. The Minister can clarify them. Madam, there is another thing about this. This has appeared in the newspapers 'Jan Satta' and 'Indian Express'. The parts of 150 Maruti cars which have been imported from Japan are missing. Questions have been raised in both the Houses of Parliament about this. But nothing has happened. Such people like 'Sukracharyas' are sitting there grabbing all the profits. Therefore my appeal to the Government of India through you Madam would be that whatever corruption or mismanagement that is going on there should be properly investigated into and the persons whoever it may be responsible for it should be punished.

Now, I come to the second important thing. In 'The Economic Times' of today, it is reported that the project costs of the private sector units are up by 31 per cent in six months. The total costs of public projects have escalated by 31.1 per cent in the last six months. The latest estimate with regard to September 1991 to March 1992 shows that they have risen from Rs. 7,22,774 crores to Rs. 9,47,700 crores. That is because of the delay in clearance. That is very

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

important. After a recent review, the Prime Minister directed the project authorities to raise extra-Budgetary resources, to generate funds to check the rising costs. Madam, the original cost of 309 projects under the monitoring system was Rs. 55,598 crores. But due to the delay in giving clearance to the projects, the estimate pegged at Rs. 94,700.4 crores. The total cost overrun is Rs. 19,316.8 crores and that is due to the delay in giving clearance to the projects. Madam, this is a very important aspect when the country is faced with a great challenge. The reason for my raising this issue is this. There are so many projects, particularly in the power sector. There are so many power projects in different parts of the country which have not been cleared. The delay ranges from one month to 128 months. I have got the data from my State. I think you aso woud be having the data from your State. There are about nine power projects which are lying with the Ministry right from 13 March 1986 till today, that is up to 1992, pending clearance. Due to the non-clearance of these projects, the cost estimate would have gone up by thousands of crores of rupees. I feel it is very dangerous. There is no doubt that the public sector industries shoud perform well. Madam, there is a plan for modernisation of steel plants by the Steel Authority of India. In Salem in Tamil Nadu a steel plant is coming up. Its capacity was 12 million tonnes and 2.40 lakh labourers were employed there. But it has gone into trouble and is not running with full capacity. Even in the textile sector about 140 textile mills have been closed down. Its number may go upto 152 mills. The number of worthwhile workable mils is only 51 in this country. The growing sickness in the textile mills is also posing a grave challenge to the Government of India. The Government has taken so many textile mills. The Government has nationalised so many of them. But that is also a burden on the Government. It is not an easy job to run these sick mills. We have categoricaly suggested in this House that the Government can create workers' cooperative societies or the workers can be associated with the management by giving them some financial aid so that they develop some kind of affinity with that mill and run that mill some properly. That is what we had sugested and the Government must consider that suggestion.

Then Madam, the cement industry has done extremey well. It has increased its capacity from 60 millon tonnes to 61.6 million tonnes during the lastone year. It is doing quite well. Even then our demand is much more. It does not mean that all these pubic sector units are incurring losses. The only thing is that the units which are incurring losses must be properly classified and proper remedial steps should be taken to remove their sickness.

Now, I come to the fertilizer industry. A large number of fertilizer plants are there in our country. I know at least about one fertilizer plant that has come up at Haldia. The Governmenhas spent more than Rs. 250 crores on this plant but during the last six years, not a single kg. of nitrogen or super-phosphate has come out of it. I do not understand as to why it is so. I don't say that it should be closed down but it should come up because by 2000 AD, our foodgrains production wil be about 240 million tonnes and we may require about 70 million tonens of fertilizer. At the moment, we are manufacturing 50 millon tonnes of fertilizer. That means we have to import about 20 million tonnes of fertilizer.

The major industrial crisis surfaced in 1990 and about Rs. 80,000 crores had been spent in this sector but the return has been only 3 per cent. This is a very grave situation and something should be done to get rid of this malaise.

Lastly, the top ten PSUs IOC FCI; ONGC, Brarat Petroleum, ACIM;

HPC, HMPC, BHEL, Madras Refinery and the SAIL are running with a capacity ranging from 54.9 per cent to 64.1 per cent. They may not be able to make profit unless their capacity utilisation is more than 80 per cent. The public sector units must make an annual profit of at least Rs. 10,000 crores and then alone we can save them.

Now, I would like to say something about my State. There are at least eight power projects which are pending with the Central Government since 31st March, 1986.

They are:

1. Parli 'C' Station
2. Dabhol combined cycle gas based station.
3. Thakurli T.P.S. Power General Station.
4. Ujani Power Plant.
5. Bhusawal 'B' Hatnur.
6. Feasibility Report for Gas Turbine.
7. Umred T.P.S. Power Plant.
8. 500 MW Power Project at Dahanu in Thane district.

There is inadequate coal supply to those power plants.

These are some of the power projects concerinng the State of Maharashtra and the State Government has been constantly pursuing this matter with the Central Government to sanction these projects. If these projects are sanctioned, the availability of power in the State will considerably improve. If we take into account the capacity utilisation of all the State Electricity Boards, whereas the capacity utilisation in respect of the State of Maharashtra is 58 per cent, the same is 35 per cent in case of other State Electricity Board. So as compared to other States the State of Maharashtra is doing very well. I demand that these power projects should be cleared as early as possible from the Central Energy Board or from the concerned Minister. I request the hon. Minister to sanction these projects as early as possible. The States which are running a good administration which are doing a better management must be encouraged. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I feel the Govenrment is trying to throw the entire blame on the labour force for all the failures of the public sector undertakings. The Government's own Industrial Policy has examined the problems arising out of these public sector undertakings—inadequate growth in productivity, poor project management, lack of continuous technological upgradation, inadequate attenion to research and development and to human resource development. I do not follow why the Government wants to throw the blame on the labour force. The public sector enterprises are located in various parts of the country, particularly in remote places. I would like the Government to examine whether for every public sector undertaking an advisory committee can be constituted involving the local MPs, Members of Parliament of that State.

The new Industrial Policy that the Government has enunciated wants to run the public sector enterprises on business lines and cut their losses. Nobody can object to this principle. All the chronically sick units which cannot be made viable should be closed, giving protection to the labour force. This policy also cannot be objected. But this is not the message that the Congress Government has conveyed to the working class. After the new Ministry is formed, various statements have been made by the Finance Ministry. I fear there is a vast difference between the approach of the Industry Ministry and of the Finance Ministry. The statements of the Finance Ministry have created an impression that this Government is marching towards a capitalistic society. The Government is not for a socialistic society as enshrined in the Constitution, by the amendment brought by the late revered leader, Mrs. Gandhi. The Government is not for implementing the Directive Principles as enshrined in our Constitu-

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tion, namely, "..that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good." "The operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment." The present Government is ignoring these objects.

The most objectionable policy of the present Government is to hand over the public sector undertakings to foreigners and multi-nationals. The Industrial Development policy which has been placed before the Parliament states:

> "In order to give the people of India a chance to participate in the running of the public sector it has been decided to make available 20 per cent of the shares in selected units now held by Government, to mutual funds, financial institutions and and workers."
>
> "In order to raise resources and encourage wider public participation a part of the Government's shares in the public sector would be offered to mutual funds, financial institutions, general public and workers."
>
> "This is expected to inject the much needed funds in the system and provide a more open system of functioning where the public at large will function as watchdogs over these institutions."

But this is not the truth. The truth is, the Finance Department's statement states:

> "In order to raise resources and to overcome the current revenue deficits, 20 per cent of the shares in the public sector enterprises will be disinvested."

This unfortunate Policy statement has conveyed a threatening and shocking signal to the working class.

The funds amounting to thousands of crores of rupees of the financial institutions are locked up in sick private sector units. After all, the total investment in the public sector enterprise is Rs. 1,13,124 crores, but the Central Government's Annual Budget is more than this amount. Then why do you want to disinvest the shares of the public sector enterprises? Is it not a fact that the public sector enterprises have been making substantial contribution to augment the resources of the Government through payment of dividends, corporate taxes, excise duty, customs duty? These amounts came to Rs. 19,466 crores in 1990-91. Now it is more. One hundred and thirty-one public sector enterprises earned a net profit of Rs. 5,741 crores. Then why does the Government want to disinvest the shares of those public sector enterprises? I want a categorical assurance from the Industries Minister that the shares of those 131 profit-making public sector industries will not be disinvested and these undertakings will not be handed over to the capitalists, either foreign or local. No such public sector industrial units should be handed over to foreign multinational companies, just like Maruti Udyog Limited. The Industries Minister had assured this august House that they would not hand over the management of the Maruti Udyog Limited to foreign multinationals. But now the reports say that they are handing over the control of the shares, the control of the management, to foreigners. This kind of approach towards the public sector undertakings is against the policy that has been followed by Shrimati Indira Gandhi who initiated the joint sector concept in the Industries Department. The Present Government has given a go-by to the joint sector industrial concept introduced by Shrimati Indira Gandhi bringing in the talents of the private sector, funds from the private sector and also having the control of the Government to help the public and the working class. I want the present Government not to deviate from the policies followed by Shrimati Indira Gandhi and her son, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, in future also.

*DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Vice-Chairman, we all know that Public Sector undertakings play a kep role in today's economy. We have established these Public Sector undertakings for the development of industries and to overcome budgetary deficits. We all know how the Public Sector undertakings started during the period of our first Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and progressed slowly. The Congress Party has been continuously saying that, for the progress and development of our Country Public Sector undertakings are very important. The same Congress Party which is in power to-day has meekly surrendered to the conditionalities of the IMF and the World Bank in order to secure loan from them. Now this government wants to weed out the surplus Labour force deserting so many families. This is how the Congress Party has changed all its views, ideals and is driving the country to rocks. This is the most unfortunate thing in my opinion.

Madam, I do agree that there are some problems and disadvantages in these Public Sector undertakings. But then you cannot generalise and say that all Public Sector undertakings are running in loss. Let me ask a question. Are all the private sector undertakings running smoothly? We always talk about those private sector units which are earning profit and never even make a mention of those private sectors which are incurring loss. This is the most unfortunate thing. Let me give an example. There are seven private bus operators in my native place. Among these seven three of them are able to run smoothly and earn profit. So both private sector and public sector are sailing in the same boat. Both have problems and both are incurring losses. Didn't the public sector undertakings earn a profit of Rs. 3,782 crores during the year 1989-90 for our government? So, 60 per cent of the public sector undertakings are making profits while 40 per cent of them are incurring losses. If they are running in deficit, what can be the reason? It is the defective government system which is responsible for it. The Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India are running in huge deficit. What is the reason behind? The reason is nothing but the defective policies being adopted by our government. For instance, it is trying to favour the farmers by charging less than the cost price for fertilizers with the sole political motive. That is why fertilizer units are running in deficit. Is it not a defective policy? How can the public sectors make profit? The machinery used in our public sector units is mostly out dated. They are not able to replace or modernize the outmoded machinery for want of funds. The Government does not provide funds to the public sector units. So how can they earn profits? Similarly, the Delhi Transport Corporation is also incurring losses. Every year we are increasing the rates of diesel and petrol but the bus fares remain at the same level. How can there be any profits if such a system is adopted? Government itself is not placing orders with the public undertakings like Hindustan Ship Yard, Cochin Ship Yard, BHEL etc. and instead patronising foreign companies. So I firmly believe that the methods and policies the Government is adopting are highly defective.

Madam, now the Government is thinking of doing away with the surplus employees of the public sectors so that they can become more competitive. I want to know how this realisation suddenly dawned on our government? Who is responsible for this surplus labour force? It is the political leaders themselves who have created this problem. Often jobs are given under political pressure and no consideration is given to the efficiency of the persons employed. So

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Telugu.

[Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy]

how can we expect the PSUs to run smoothly? How can we in the same breath blame that they are a drag on our exchequer. But truly speaking surplus labour force is not a problem because we are not making use of the total productive capacity of almost all the public sector undertakings. The extent of capacity of utilisation in 60 per cent of public undertakings is 70 per cent ond merely 50 per cent in 20 per cent of the undertakings. So if we can make use ofthe total productive capacity the problem of surplus employees will not exist any more and we may even need more employees and in this process public sectors will earn profits also.

Instead of this they are trying to lure the innocent employees by introducing schemes such as Golden Handshake. The implementation of such schemes may lead to an exodus of the efficient staff. Government is also motivating the employees to seek volunteer retirement in return of a paltry seem and suffer for the rest of their life.

Madam, very recently the Congress promised so many things in their election manifesto. They have promised more employment opportunities for the unemployed and so many other things were said in the 8th five year plan document. So soon they have turned their back on them saying that they want to weed out the surplus employees.

So, Madam I find that the policies adopted by this Government are defective. If a part of our body is affected by same disease, we cannot think of doing away with the whole body. We cannot sit on a branch and cut the same. This proves our foolishness and ignorance. So my suggestion is that the Government should try to change its policies. With these words Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Thank you.

SHRI JAGMOHAN (Nominated): Madam, before I start I would request you to kindly tell me the time so that I complete my proposition.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): There is very little time. There are four of you and 9 minutes has been allotted.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: I have one little comment to make. How is it that the nominated Members are always called at the fag-end of the day?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Because they constitute a small number.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: You may like to consider it. I have nothing else to say.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): There are four of you and 9 minutes is the allotted time for all the four. You may take 3 to 4 minutes.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: I raised this point because I did not want to repeat all that has already been said. In fact the disadvantage of speaking at the end is there is nothing left to say. A lot of things that you wanted to say are already said. One point that I would like to mention, and it is borne out of my experience, is that one should not attempt what one cannot execute. My own view about what is being done with regard to public sector is that the Government is attempting something for which it does not have the political stamina or the administrative and legal institution at its disposal which can effectively implement it. It will only generate tensions and it will create problems. It might create problems worse than what has been created in Czechoslovakia. It will lead to social tensions, more problems, more difficulties. Already discordant voices are being heard from various sections. Even in the Government itself, the Finance Minister said, 'there would be closure.' Mr. Sangma said, 'there would not be any closure.' The Prime Minister said, 'we have an open mind on the

question.' I do not know what Mr. Thungon is going to say on this issue. There is no clear-cut policy with regard to what is to be done. My apprehension is that we may end up by getting the worst of both the worlds. We may end up by accumulating more problems than we started with. This aspect may kindly be borne in mind. The second point which we have to keep in mind is; in my view the Government as a critic of the public sector this Government at the moment, I mean has been lest than honest in branding the public sector as inefficient or unprofitable. This morning I was sitting here when a question was being answered about the constitution of the Board of ITDC. The Board of ITDC has not been constituted since 1987 and the reply given by the hon. Minister was that the Governments have been changing and so we could not constitute the Board and the Parliament also swallowed that explanation. I do not know what to say about it.

The Government takes so many years to constitute a board for the public sector and then it blames the public sector for being inefficient and for not delivering the goods. The Minister said that we had initiated the proposal to appoint the Chairman and the Managing Director in November, 1991. It is now July, 1992 and the post has not been filled, may be, by the Department of personnel or by the Prime Minister's Secretariat or by somebody else. But the Government is a unit. So, the issue is that if you take so much time in filling a post which should have been filled within a week at the most, passing the blame on to the public sector is not fair at all. The mistake lies somewhere else. I know that it is not a question of the Central public sector undertakings. What is the underlying spirit with which the nation as a whole projected the public sector? In the State pubic enterprises, there has been a lot of inefficiency and there have been lot of problems. How did they happen? I know of a case when a Minister called a gentleman and said, "you appoint 150 drivers in the State Trading Corporation". The Managing Director replied, "Sir, there are no posts." He said, "Create the posts." So the posts were created. Then he said that they didn't have the driving licence. "All right, give them the licences", was the reply. Just imagine if this is the approach of the decision-makers, then to blame the public sector is highly unfair. And we also know that 12,000 million dollars of foreign exchange was got for the Central public sector undertakings and these public sector undertakings did not require the foreign exchange to meet their requirements. But the Government tried to get it by indirect means just to fill the gap wih regard to the balance of payments. Then again it is a question of putting the blame somewhere else while the blame should be somewhere else. Then the other issue is, how do you measure profitability? We do not take social goods into consideration. And we are aso confused. I will give you an instance. The Delhi Development Authority, when it was making profits, the whole Parliament was saying, "Oh! they are profiteering, they are making profits." But now all the money is going into the hands of the colonisers, blackmarketeers and speculators. Everybody is happy and nobody is saying anything about it. Whatever profits the Delhi Development Authority used to make by selling lands by auction, they were used for social purposes. Nobody says that 12,000 hectares of green land was acquired and developed and trees were planted on that. If today Delhi is having some fresh air, it is primarily because of that. Whatever was the profit of one, it was spent on the other. Whatever developments that took place by constructing colonies to the poor, low-income housing,, middle-income housing and giving 2,000 hectares to the poor, nobody takes these

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into account. Now everybody is happy because the colonisers have secured all the land and they are selling on paper something and the black-marketeers are accummulating the wealth in this country. We are not seeing the invisible damage that is being done.

Then about disinvestment, apart from all that has been said, there is a very fine memorandum prepared by the officers of the public sector undertakings. That memorandum gives all the data about the disinvestment that is being done and that data is extremely valuable with regard to the replacement value of the assets, the asets created by the public sector. And I would request the Government to just consider all that data and then come and indicate its viewpoints about it again. Finally, what is the replies. I do not want to repeat all about it again. Finaly, what is the ultimate solution for this? My point is that we must think of an original and creative alternative. At present, we are just following the economic fundamentalism that is being preached by the World Bank and the International monetary Fund. It is a sort of fundamentalism which they are preaching all over the world and with disastrous consequences in some other countries, with less disastrous consequences in some other countries. Only three or four countries have been branded as being successful and they are very small countries and they have no internal market of their own. Can't a country, with such vast experience, create a model Act of its own which answers its own needs? From the lessons of inefficiencies in our public sector, can't we eliminate those inefficiencies? There can be a model Act which can be prepared and which can be given to the various State Governments to follow and those who do not follow that Act will have to be deprived of Plan allocations. My suggestion is that a Committee has to be constituted. I can give my views to that Committee as to how to create a really autonomous, really efficient and really service-oriented public sector. Since there is no time, I will not dwell upon the details of this.

Thank you.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा (बिहार) : मैडम, काफी देर से बहस चल रही है और मैं अपनी बात बहुत संक्षेप में कहना चाहूंगी। क्योंकि बहुत बातें कही जा चुकी हैं। मैं केवल इतना ही कहना चाहती हूं कि हमारे देश में 246 पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग्स हैं। इनमें से 131 अंडरटेकिंग्स मुनाफे वाली है और सरकार ने 58 पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटकिंग्स को बीमार करके देखा है। मेरे से पूर्व बोलने वाले माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा कि इसमें से 49 यूनिट्स ऐसी हैं जो सिक थी और सरकार ने उनको लिया था। यह हमारे सामने तथ्य है। पूरी पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्स में देश भर में जितने लोग काम करते हैं उनकी संख्या लगभग 72 लाख है और सरकार की मान्यता है कि चाहे उद्योग बीमार हो या स्वस्थ हो, उसे रिस्ट्रक्चर करना है वर्ल्ड बैंक और इंटरनेशनल मानेटरी फंड ने जो कर्जा दिया, उसके आधार पर आज हमारी आर्थिक नीति और औद्योगिक नीति चलायी जा रही है, उसके तहत यह निश्चित रूप से कहा गया है कि भारत के उद्योगों को रिस्ट्रक्चर किया जाय, पुनः संगठित किया जाय। उसमें एक बात यह भी कही गयी है कि हमारे उद्योगों में ज्यादा लोग काम करते हैं। महोदया मेरा संबंध कोयला उद्योग और कुछ सरकारी उद्योगों से भी है, मालिक की हैसियत से नहीं, मजदूरों के प्रतिनिधि की हैसियत से और कुछ निजी कल-कारखानों के साथ भी मेरा संबंध इसी हैसियत से है। महोदया, मैं यह बात निश्चितरूप से कहना चाहती हूं कि मैंने देखा है कि हर जगह बालेंटरी रिटायरमेंट स्कीम की बड़े जोरों से चर्चा है, सरकार की ओर से यह जोरों से चलायी जा रही है। यह कहा जा रहा है कि आवश्यकता से ज्यादा लोग काम करते हैं। आप कोयला उद्योग की ही बात ले लीजिय। वहाँ पर साढे सात लाख लोग काम करते हैं। बारम्बार कोयला मंत्री और दूसरे लोग यह कहते हैं कि इस उद्योग में ज्यादा लोग काम करते हैं, इसलिए इनकी संख्या घटानी है। जब कि यह बात सत्य नहीं है। हमारे यहां अभी कुछ माननीय सदस्यों

ने कहा और खासकर माननीय कमल मोरारका जी ने कहा कि कैसे-कैसे संख्या बढ़ी है। तो मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि जो सरकार कहती है वह सही नहीं है। 49 परसेंट तो यह विदेशी कैपटलिस्ट को देने जा रही है, फारेन एक्विटी शेयर देने जा रही है और डिसइन्वेस्टमेंट कर चुकी है। जो प्राइम यूनिट्स हैं, हमारे यहां जिन्होंने मुनाफा कमाया है, ऐसे उद्योगों में भी इन्होंने डिसइन्वेस्टमेंट की है और साथ ही साथ यह भी कहा है, कैसे धोखा देने वाली बात है कि नेशनल रेन्युवल फंड बनायेंगे जिसमें दो सौ करोड़ का बजटरी प्रोविजन रखा और एक हजार करोड़ इन पब्लिक सेक्टर का डिस-इनवेस्टीमेंट कर उसमें से लेने की बात है और एक हजार करोड़ रुपया वर्ल्ड बैंक से यानी 22 सौ करोड़ रुपये का इसमें प्रावधान है। यह 22 सौ करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान जो है इसको क्या करेंगे, कैसे खर्च करेंगे ? किसको रीहैब्लीटेट करेंगे, कहां करेंगे इसकी कोई स्कीम सरकार ने नहीं दी है। लेकिन जो सामने दिखाई दे रहा है वह यह है कि हर जगह यह आशाजनक नहीं है। मैं दो-तीन जगहों का उदाहरण देना चाहती हूं। हमारे प्रांत की बात है। वहां एच.ई.सी. की मैं बात कहना चाहती हूं, भारत रिफैक्टरीज की बात करना चाहती हूं। इसमें जो काम करने वाले लोग हैं और जिनके 15 साल काम के बाकी है, इंजीनियर, डाक्टर और तकनी-शियन हैं वी. आर. एस. में बाहर जा रहे हैं। क्यों बाहर जा रहे हैं ? वे इसलिए जा रहे हैं ताकि दूसरी जगह वे काम कर सकें क्योंकि उनके जीवन में काम का समय अभी बाकी है। वे इसलिये नहीं जा रहे हैं कि सरकार ने उनके लिये कहीं पर री-इम्पलाईमेंट का कोई सुयोग दिया है, एसी बात नहीं है। इससे नुकसान किसको होगा ? जो कल-कारखाने हैं, जिनको चलाने की बात सरकार सोचती है, उनके पास तकनीकी हाथ नहीं रह जायेंगे। उनके पास चलाने के लिए लोग नहीं रह जाएंगे, प्रशिक्षित लोग नहीं रह जायेंगे और चलाने में कठिनाई होगी (समय की घंटी) अभी दो बातें कह कर समाप्त करूंगी। मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि पब्लिक सेक्टर की जो दुर्दशा है इस दुर्दशा का बहुत बड़ा कारण है इसका टाप मैनेजमेंट। टॉप मैनेजमेंट के कारण हर जगह दुर्दशा की स्थिति हो रही है, श्रमिकों के कारण नहीं। श्रमिकों के कारण कहीं पर नहीं हुई है। हमारे देश को क्या चाहिये और कैसी चीज चाहिये, इसका सर्वे किये बगैर चीजें बनाई जा रही हैं। मैं एक छोटा सा उदाहरण देना चाहूंगी। हिन्दुस्तान मशीन टूल्ज घड़िया बनाता है और ट्रेक्टर बनाता है और भी तरह-तरह की चीजें बनाता है। एच. एम. टी. की घड़ी आज बाजार में मार खा रही है। मशीन टूल्ज में बड़ा ट्रेक्टर बनाते हैं। ट्रेक्टर में कई ऐसे पुर्जे हैं जिसके बारे में उनके बिक्री केन्द्र वालों को भी पता ही नहीं है। हिन्दुस्तान में 80 फीसदी लोग छोटे किसान और मार्जिनल किसान हैं। वे 40–50 हजार रुपये का बड़ा ट्रेक्टर नहीं खरीद सकते हैं। उनको स्माल टिलर्ज की आवश्यकता है। यदि हिंदुस्तान मशीन टूल्ज उनके लिए हेण्ड टिलर्ज बनाए तो वह बहुत उपयोगी होगा। लेकिन इसके बारे में इनको कोई चिन्ता नहीं है। यह माइडलेस तरीका है, प्लानिंग और आर. एंड डी. का काम ठीक से नहीं होता है। यह सब कारण है जिससे पब्लिक सेक्टर की दुर्दशा हो रही है। जो काम करने वाले लोग हैं वह तो काम करना चाहते हैं और काम करते हैं। इसलिए मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से कहना चाहूंगी कि अगर बिना प्लानिंग के, बिना सोचे समझे कारखानों को बंद करने की बात होगी तो सरकार के सामने खतरे की घंटी बजेगी। जैसे आप घंटी बजा रही हैं, उसी तरह से आपकी सरकार के सामने खतरे की घंटी होगी। हमारे कई माननीय सदस्यों ने श्रमिक वर्ग की बात कही है। महोदया, 16 जून, को पूरे देश भर में हड़ताल हुई थी और आगे भी होगी। सरकार को मैं इतना ही कहना चाहती हूं कि संघर्ष के रास्ते को नहीं अपनाइये, मजदूरों की नाहक छंटनी मत कीजिये, श्रमिक संगठनों के साथ और प्रबन्धन के साथ मिल बैठ कर बात करके कोई न कोई रास्ता निश्चित रूप से निकालें तो फिर एक सही रास्ता निकलेगा, नहीं तो मनमाना एकतरफा होने पर होगा जिसका नतीजा बहुत बुरा होगा। इसका नतीजा सरकार को भी भुगतना पड़ेगा और देश को भी भुगतना पड़ेगा। धन्यवाद।

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Madam Vice-Chairperson, the issue is going to be closed with the customary reply by the Minister who, of course, I am sure, will speak with all the facts and

[Shri Saurin Bhattacharya]

figures at his command. Since it almost seems to be a lost case, in spite of some profit-making public sector units just at the present moment, I would like to ask with what understanding this particular scheme has been introduced, whether really to improve the functioning of the public sector undertakings or to liquidate the so-called unprofitable undertakings. Has the Government learnt any lessons from individual undertakings? If they had learnt that, they they would know who are responsible for the present situation. But they paint a picture as if the workers only are the devils of the piece and the management people are all angels. Is that the position? A very fine picture was presented befor us. A Committee was formed, we were told. But two members of the Committee ultimately resigned on the question of presenting an objective report, a correct picture, in regard to the Government's handling of the public sector undertakings.

We all are accquainted with the slogan that the public sector should attain commanding heights of our economy, of our industry. Now, with little liquidity and disinvestment, what should it be called? I have examples, perhaps, may be redundant in the sense that many examples have been cited here. I know of a specific case ,an organisation where there is an order for Rs. 74 crocs, but for which there is no working capital. If working capital is provided and efficient management is employed with a control over the finances—no qualified finance officer had ever been appointed in that organisation if these three conditions are fulfilled—it has repeatedly been impressed upon Mr. Thungon and also the Prime Minister—this would become viable. The question is that the workers of the nation have to pay for the inefficiency of the management, for the Government's stringency. Whatever money is given, it is given only in driplets, not all at once so that money can be utilised with a definite objective. I mean, these are perhaps nothing strange, but very normal. (*Time bell rings*) But the question is that the Government will have o take a new look into the entire matter. Otherwise, the position would be inescapable that their objective is to do away with the public sector and to bring in those profit-making agencies wh oare controlling the major portion of our national economy. Thank you Madam.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER (Assam): Madam Vice-Chairperson, in India, the public sector was supposed to serve a very important purpose, that of developing the core sector, that is, the infra-structural sector. Madam, after 45 years of independence, even a casual look at the performance of the public sector undertakings is enough to convince anybody in this country that the public sector today has become an albatross round the neck of the country's economy. That is why, Madam, when we express our reservations and our apprehensions about the expected closure of a number of PSUs, we should keep in view this aspect of the problem.

Madam, today, the public sector has become synonymous with inefficiency, with corruption, and with non-productivity. And the general impression is that this is due to over-administration over-employment, and under-management. Madam, it is also being increasingly felt that the public sector has failed to perform at its desired level, and has failed to deliver the goods because of excessive accountability, because of too much probing at various levels, and because of too much interference from the Government. Whatever be the feelings, Madam, the fact remains that the enormous losses incurred by the public sector enterprises both at the Central and the State levels and the continuing losses have resulted in a huge drain on our country's exchequer. But, in spite of this, interestingly, Madam, we have witnessed a rapid proliferation of public sector enterprises all over the country. Today there are about 1150 public sector enterprises and out of these about 250 are at the

Central level and the rest 900 are at the State level. One would be surprised to know that out of these 1150 public sector enterprises only ten are yielding any real profit; about 30 to 40 are giving very marginal profit and the rest are losing concerns which can be best labelled as sick units, and they have become a permanent burden on the country's economy.

Madam, I come from Assam. In my State, there are about 40 big and small public sector enterprises. Assam State Electricity Board is a giant PSU. It is responsible for generation, maintenance, transmission and distribution of power within the State of Assam. The total accumulated loss of ASEB is over Rs. 1000 crores. In the last 3-4 years, ASEB has been losing at the rate of Rs. 100 crores on an average. The question is whether there is any justification in continued investment in ASEB. Then there is the Assam State Road Transport Corporation, shortly referred to as ASRTC. It has a fleet of about 1000 buses and it carries about one lakh people. It incurs a loss of about Rs. 20 crores on an average every year. The staff ratio is high; the staff productivity is absolutely low; the organisation is over-staffed, and the staff cost consumes about 84 per cent of the traffic revenue. My question is whether there is any justification in continued investment in ASRTC.

Therefore, today there is an urgent need to improve efficiency. And how do we exactly improve efficiency? May I humbly submit that it is competition and competition alone which can improve efficiency, and in order to bring about a sense of competition in these enterprises, privatisation of the sick and non-productive PSUs is the only course open before us. At the same time the Government must also act with caution. Any attempt to change the system overnight might be counter-productive. Then there is also the question of security of the workers. It must be uppermost in the Government's mind. They must not be allowed to suffer, otherwise it will lead to further unemployment and further social tensions.

Before I conclude, I would like to say one thing in particular. There is a wrong notion in this country that private sector and the welfare State cannot go hand in hand. Privatisation does not necessarily imply rejection of the goals which are associated with a welfare State. It merely means adoption of private means to pursue public goals. This was understood by Margaret Thatcher when she embarked upon privatisation of the British economy. This was understood by Reagan in the United States. This was understood by the French, the Germans and the Japanese. This was understood by the Latin American countries of Mexico, Chile, Guatemala and Costa Rica. Even in the neighbourhood of India, developing countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Korea have also understood this concept. The Communist countries of Eastern Europe today, the Soviet Republics and China are extending incentives for a free market economy. The wind of change is blowing throughout the world and India cannot lag behind. Reinvestment of huge sums of public money in our sick public sector undertakings in the name of pursuing our so-called socialistic goals is something this country cannot afford to continue with. The priority today is on efficiency. The priority today is on productivity, and not on non-productive investment in sick public sector undertakings because the public sector today has ceased to be a holy cow. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Minister, how long will you take because we have a statement at 5 p.m.? Why don't you do it tomorrow?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Let him reply today.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, let him reply today. He will take 15—20 minutes. After that, we can have the statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): That is why I am asking him as to how long he will take. I will do whatever the Members want me to do.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Let him reply today.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Minister, how long will you take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): I will take 20—25 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Thirty-five minutes?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I will take 25 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): The statement is listed to be made at 5 p.m. What is the sense of the House?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We suggest that the statement be deferred by 15 minutes. Let the Minister answer. Let the statement be put off just by 15 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): If that is the wish of the Members, I have no objection. Mr. Minister please.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Is he making a statement?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): He is replying.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam Vice-Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in this discussion. I have been listening to the hon. Members with rapt attention. I must, particularly, express my thanks to those Members who have given their constructive suggestions.

Madam, I would refer here to the discussion which took place in December, 1991, wherein, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta had expressed his views in detail. He has raised the discussion and other hon. Members have taken part in it. In that discussion, most of the questions which came up today were discussed. There are some points and suggestions which are, to some extent, similar to those made during the course of that discussion.

During the course of that discussion, our Prime Minister had said. I quote: 'If we do not arrest the trend, it will become a bottomless pit. We have no policy of closing down the sick units and throwing the workers out. It has never been our policy.' Therefore, at the outset, I would like to assure the hon. Members that we do not have any intention to throw the workers out. Our intention is very clear. Our intentoin is to improve and revitalise the public sector units.

We have been following the mixed-economy policy. In that debate itself, our Prime Minister had made clear three points, besides the policy in regard to the public sector as contained in the new Industrial policy. These there points were as follows. The mixed-economy system will continue in the country. There will be reduced budgetary support to the sick or potentially-sick public sector enterprises, with a view to eliminating it as early as possible. Nationalisation will not, normally, be resorted to in future. While dealing with sickness, human hardship will be avoided, to the extent possible, through the National Renewal Fund.

Madam, our public sector has grown and has a very rich experience and resource-base. Keeping this in view as soon as this Government came to power, we decided to formulate a new industrial policy. In the new Industrial Poilcy, the points which are relevant to the public sector are as under. Firstly, reduction in the list of industries reserved for the public sector from 17 to 8 and introducing selective competition in the reserved area. Secondly, deinvestment of shares of the PSUs to raise resources and incourage wider participation of the general public in the ownership of the PSUs. Thirdly, the policy in regard to the sick public enterprises to be the same as in the case of the private sector. Four, improving of performance 5.00 P.M. through 'performance contract' MOU system by which management are to be granted greater autonomy, help and also are to be made accountable for the results

Madam, as on date we have 246 public sector units. Out of these 246 public sector units, the loss-making units are 109 and the sick units are 67. These are the figures obtaining as on 31st March, 1991. The total investment in these public sector units is about Rs. 1,14,000 crores and the total number of employees is about 23 lakhs. There are around 3.9 lakh workers in these 67 sick units. Out of these 67 sick units 54 units are industrial units and the rest are non-industrial units. Our problem is not with regard to the public sector units. I must express my gratitude to hon. Members for protecting the public sector units and for giving a number of suggestions for their improvement. Our problem is the sick units. We do not have any problem with regard to the public sector units which are making profit, which are doing well. Our problem is the sick units. As the hon. House is aware, in December a discussion had taken place here where we had circulated a Status Paper, a Monograph. In that Monograph we had said what was the manpower, what was the investment, and what was the amount of loss. And we had left one paragraph blank where we had sough recommendations from all sections of the community, from the hon. Members and particularly, from this august House in this regard.

After those discussions, quite a number of actions have been taken. We had stated at that time that sick units will be referred to BIFR. Now, by referring them to BIFR we did no mean that we are going to close the sick units. We have made it very clear in our policy that for revival and rehabiiltation package the sick units will be referred to BIFR and whatever the Expert Committee recommands, on the basis of that we can take further action for their revival and rehabilitation.

SHRI ASHIS SEN (West Bengal): This is the theory, but what is happening in practice?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I have just started. I am coming, one by one.

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): May I draw your attention, Madam? The Minister says that he is only coming to the point. In that case you will have to take the approval of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I have already done that.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: The Chair has already done that. She has given me 25 minutes' time.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Mr. Misinetr, do you agree that in the meeting of the labour representatives in November, 1991 you had agreed that you would not refer it to the BIFR? Do you agree or do you not agree?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: The hon. Members are welcome to ask questions later on. Let me first state whatever I have to state. After that if you

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want certain clarifications, you are most welcome.

Now, this package will be worked out by the BIFR—that is what I was going to say. As a follow-up action, we have amended the SICA because earlier the public sector units were not referable to the BIFR. Government has decided that public sector units should be treated on par with the private sector units and, therefore, the SICA has been amended and now the public sector units are referrable to the BIFR. For the information of the august House, so far, as on date, 33 out of 54 units have already been refered to the BIFR. The rest will follow.

Now, without taking much time, I would like to mention about the other part. As I was explaining, our problem is the sick units and sick units we are going to handle in this manner.

The other part on which hon. Members expressed their concern is about disinvestment. At the outset I would like to state that we are not going to privatize our public secotr units by disinvestment, because a mere 20 per cent disinvestment does not mean privatization. This august House will remember that in his Budget speech, the Finance Minister had made it clear in 1991 that up to an extent of 20 per cent, some selected public sector units, shares will be disinvested so as to obtain non inflationary resources or so as to look for non-inflationary resources from the public sector units. On the basis of that in November-December 1991 and February 1992, we had disinveted up to an extent of Rs. 3.038 crores from 30 PSUs. In fact, the proposal was for 31, but we have been able to disinvest from 30 PSUs only.

A question has been raised that in this disinvestment the prices of the shares have been low. At one stage it was also said, Madam, that the financial institutions and Mutual Funds were being threatened to pay more prices. But as time goes on, views go on changing in certain sections of the people. But so far as the Government is concerned, so far as we are concerned, we were given time to do this disinvestment within a period of about eight months, from July, because the budget session in 1991 was in July. So we had only about eight months, whereas such disinvestment or taking the shares right up to the Stock Exchanges takes not less than 18 months to three years.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: No, it is not correct.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: So we have not had much time and also within the eight months that we had to disinvest, we had hardly four months' time. And within these four months, time we had decided that we should go in a manner where the Government exchequer does not suffer loss and the investors also do not lose.

At the same time, it should be a non-controversial one. So, we evolved a kind of method to sell or to disinvest through the Mutual Fund and financial institutions. While doing that, we have not only consulted the CCI but also deployed some consultant. After doing all that exercise, we have sold in November-December the shares which fetched about Rs. 27.65 p. per share which was 15 per cent higher than the floor price. Rs. 10 was the face value, and on that some floor value was fixed, and there was disinvestment. The second time when we did disinvestment at that time, the shares fetched Rs. 45.25 each, which was 75 per cent higher than the floor price.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): That itself shows that the prices were very high.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: No doubt. If we had gone for listing them, had gone to the capital market straight, number one, the problem would have been that we would not have got that

much of time, and number two, we would not have been able to control the price. Either it would have been low, or it would have been high. So, we had to adopt this via media and that is how we have been able to sell, disinvest Rs. 3038 crores within a span of about four to six months.

Doubts have been expressed by hon. Members about the disinvestment of the public sector shares. They tried to relate it with the Bank Scam. So far as Government is concerend, the shares have been sold to financial institutions and the Mutual Fund which worked as a cushion between the real buyers in the public and Government.

I would also like to say that some of the mentions which have been made, relate to the scam. Those were not shares but some bonds. It is a question of some bonds sold earlier. The shares which we have disinvested through the Mutual Fund and financial institutions, have not yet reached the capital market. Only one or two which had already been listed earlier ike the Andrew Yule and a few others, have been in the share market. But most of the public sector units had neither the experience nor have they up till now gone to the share market. Therefore, these doubts I just wanted to dispel.

Now, coming to the hon. Members' points. I must mention the name of the mover of this Discussion.

Shankar Dayal Singhji has mentioned about the need for more investment in PSUs. In fact, one of the reasons why we have this policy is today Government has got limited funds. Today, Government has got limited funds. A lot of money is required to be spent in many other fields. As the hon. Prime Miinster has stated the other day, there is a need for funds to be spent on education, health water supply, etc. etc. For that we do not have enough funds. If we divert all those funds for funding these sick units, we will not have any funds to be spent on education, health, water supply, etc. That is why this disinvestment policy will certainly make-up some of the deficit in the Government budget and that is how we will be able to do justice to the pubic secotr units.

Madam, some of the hon. Members including Mr. Shankar Dayal Singhji have said that the Government should make its mind clear. So far as our policy is concerned, it is quite transparent. Our mind is very clear that all public sector units should improve and we should see that these sick units are revived and the country canot afford them to be sick.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: How can you do it without giving any financial aid?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, what I am trying to make out is we wil have to generate funds and units have to be made viable by themselves. It cannot live on spoon-feeding from the Government.

Some hon. Member, I think it was Mr. Jagesh Desai, mentioned about the sick taken-over units. I may inform him that there are 47 taken-over units. Out of that, 37 are loss-making units and almost 30 are sick.

Some hon. Members have mentioned about the National Renewable Fund. Mathur sahib mentioned that Rs. 200 crores towards the National Renewable Fund is not enough. I would like to remind him that in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister Rs. 200 crores were provided during this financial year and Rs. 1000 crores will be provided from the disinvestment of public sector units and Rs. 1000 crores are expected to be contributed by the IMF and the World Bank.

The hon. Member, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta stated that in the garb of disinvestment policy, the Govern-

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say.

ment is going to privatise the public sector units. Also a few hon. Members mentioned that we are moving towards a capitalist society. I have already stated in the beginning that we are committed to a mixed economy system. We will still follow that mixed economy system. Therefore, the fear of moving towards capitalist society is needless.

Madam, some of the points were repeated again and again. Some of the hon. Members were in the habit of repeating these points, for example, our economic policy and our industrial policy have been guided by the IMF and the World Bank. Sir, some other hon. Members were much more expressive. They tried to put it that we have made this policy under pressure. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Mr. Minister, please clarify.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I do not want to clarify. The Finance Minister has made it very clear. The Prime Minister has already made it amply clear in this august House that we are not led by the IMF, nor are we going to be led by the IMF and we are going to be led by India.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: You did not answer the question.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Some other hon. Members stated that too much of control, too much of accountability, on the public sector.... (*Interruption*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I have put a pointed question why the funds allotted under the Budget are not being released as a result of which a large number of public sector units are in a situation of undeclared closure. That was my main point.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, I would like to answer the hon. Member by saying that we are not stopping the release of whatever Budget allocations are there. As I have said right in the beginning, whatever allocations are made as per the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister are the only funds available with us. That much only is available with us and beyond that, we cannot invest.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I still remember the Budget speech. Will you please yield for a minute, Mr. Minister? I have given you statistics. Madam Chairperson, I have given the statistics. One after another institutions have not been given funds. In the case of the NTC, instead of Rs. 56 crores, only Rs. 9 crores have been given. These are instances. Why has it been staggered? That is my point.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, if the total Budgetary allocations for a particular unit are released at one stroke, the enterprise authorities feel, it may not be in the interest of the particular enterprise. Therefore, funds may not be released at one stroke. But there are instances where they have been given also. For example, I remember, RIC has been given whatever allocation has been made. They were given the first instalment, the next instalment and then the next instalment. The problem is, if you pay at one stroke, a time may come when workers—the hon. Member is a great sympathiser of workers—may not be paid their salary. If they do not get their salary at the end of the month, their children will suffer; the poor workers will suffer. Therefore, the management has to see that that stage is not reached. (*Interruption*).

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: The FCI, the RIC and the NTC...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Let him complete. Please let him complete. If hon. Members keep on interrupting him, it will become a question-answer session. Let him complete. Please conclude, Mr. Minister.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, if I should reply amidst cross-questions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): No. I am not allowing any more cross-questions.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, we are fully satisfied with the Minister's reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) You can ignore the interruptions, Mr. Minister.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, I will not take much time now. I would simply like to once again thank the hon. Members for giving us suggestions. (*Interruption*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, he said we could seek clarifications. I have only one clarification to seek. He said that while fixing the price of sale of the shares, they consulted the CCI and the a consultant. Who was the consultant? Mr. Minister, you yourself have said in your speech that you consulted a consultant. Who was the consultant? Please tell us that.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: What I was trying to explain is that we have not only confined the exercise within the governmental machinery but to make it further sure, we have engaged an outside consultant also. (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: What is the name of the consultant?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I don't remember the name.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: You send the name. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I will I will send the name. Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Now, we go on to the statements.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I have just got the name. (Interruptions(

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Mathur, please let him complete. He is trying to say something.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Have you got any scheme to provide some shares to the workers?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Now, this is the last, Mr. Minister, if you want to say something, it is all right. After that, I am not going to allow. Mr. Trivedi, no. (Interruptions)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : वर्कर्स को शेयर देने के बारे में आपके पास कोई स्कीम है ? (व्यवधान)

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Minister, you had a name and you wanted to give it to Mr. Morarka.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, the name of the consultant is M/s. Strategic Consultants. We have ICICI also as our consulan. (Interruptions). We have already set up a Special Tripartite Committee and six Sectoral Committees have also been formed under this Committee. In one of the meetings of the Special Tripartite Committee, the Government has made it clear that if the workers come forward to from cooperative societies, they are welcome. Not only they can take over but past debts can also be waived. This has already been declared.

As far as the purchase of shares is concerned, the shares can be bought by the workers also and for your information, in some of the public sector units like Maruti Udyog, they have already done it.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Now, I am taking up the statements There are two statements before the House. The Minister might read both the statements and we will club the clarifications. Members may ask for clarifications and he can answer them together.